Latebreaker: The President is expected to name today Usec Manuel Bonoan as DPWH secretary vice Hermogenes Ebdane who'll be appointed DND chief

ACROSS /A17

GMA's party picks Bong Pineda's wife over Lapid as official bet for Pampanga gov

BUSINESS / B1

Gov't-First Pacific deal for PTIC shares bogged down last night. Earlier, the DOF said the deal was set to be signed today

'Money-sniffing dogs' to be deployed at Naia

SANA MAKA AMOY DIN NG PEKE!

By Nikko Dizon

DOGS THAT CAN SNIFF cash will be deployed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) as part of the government campaign against money laundering.

MONEY/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, January 31, 2007 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 54 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

GMA to seek Europe help in probing slays

Melo panel told: Why stop with Palparan?

By Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

DECLARING THAT SHE HAD "NO TOLERANCE FOR HUman rights violations," President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday directed the Melo Commission to continue with its inquiry into the killing of leftist activists and said she would ask the European Union to assist in the commission's work.

The European Union has more than once expressed alarm over the unabated killing of leftist activists, and called on the Philippine government to put a stop to the murders.

The President issued a statement containing detailed instructions after meeting with retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo in Malacañang. But the instructions were not clear on how she intended to address the latter's recommendation that retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan be held accountable for the killings on the basis of command responsibility.

According to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the military could no longer hold Palparan accountable for the extrajudicial killings because he had retired from the service.

GMA TO SEEK/ A10

LYN RILLON

BAREFACED IN THE PALACE: What's ex-Batangas Gov. Antonio Leviste doing in the Palace keeping pace with President Arroyo? The confessed killer of his longtime confidant allegedly in self-defense is also Palestine's honorary consul in the Philippines. Palestine's nonresident ambassador to the Philippines, Abdelaziz Abdelrahman Abuqutaish, presented his credentials to Ms Arroyo on Tuesday.

Int'l pressure imperative after Melo findings

By Norman Bordadora and Michael Lim Ubac

A RECIPIENT OF THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY Award for emerging leadership yesterday said the Philippine government should implement the recommendation of the Melo Commission to hold top generals responsible for the assassination of hundreds of leftist activists.

Dita Indah Sari, head of the National Front for the Indonesian Labor Struggle and 2001 RM Awardee, said that as in her country, the Philippine government appeared averse to the idea of taking its military brass to account on the basis of command responsibility. She said international pressure was imperative at this point.

"We face a similar problem in Indonesia in terms of inquiries into human rights problems. We have a national commission on human rights. But the government didn't want to [take] steps to follow [it]," she told reporters.

INTERNATIONAL/ A10

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

THE DAWNING of Tuesday in Baguio City keeps most residents lingering under the covers as the temperature takes a record plunge to 9.6 degrees Celsius (49.28 degrees Fahrenheit). The summer capital's coldest recorded temperature was in 1961 at 6.3 degrees Celsius (43.34 degrees F).

US offers ₱2.5M for capture of GenSan bomber

By Volt Contreras

THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS CONgratulated the Philippines on the recent elimination of two Abu Sayyaf leaders, is offering roughly P2.5 million as bounty for what Washington described as another "despicable terrorist."

The US Embassy yesterday announced that a $50,000 reward was available for information leading to the capture of Abdul Basit Usman," a notorious terrorist responsible for a series of bomb attacks in Mindanao in recent months."

The mission said informants may contact the Anti-Terrorist Task Force by calling 117, (02) 528-9832, (02) 928-5778, or the embassy itself at (02) 526-9832/9833/9834, or by sending a text message to 0918-948-6412.

The identity of the informants will remain strictly confidential, it added.

US OFFERS/ A12

Scientists warn millions to suffer water shortage, hunger as temperatures rise

SYDNEY—BILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL suffer water shortages and the number of the hungry will grow by hundreds of millions by 2080 as global temperatures rise, scientists warned in a report leaked Tuesday.

The report estimated that between 1.1 billion and 3.2 billion people would suffer from water scarcity problems by 2080 and between 200 million and 600 million more would go hungry.

The assessment was contained in a draft of a major international report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be released later this year, Australia's The Age newspaper said.

Scientists also warned that sea levels could flood seven million more homes, while Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef, treasured as the world's largest living organism, could be dead within decades, the newspaper said.

The Age said it had obtained a copy of the report, believed to be one of three prepared for release by the IPCC, which is highly regarded for its neutrality and caution.

Some 500 experts are meeting in Paris this week ahead of Friday's release of the IPCC's first report since 2001 on the state of scientific knowledge on global warming.

The report will be followed in April

SCIENTISTS/ A12

Why Metro folk cold as Valentine's nears

By Norman Bordadora

JUST WHEN PEOPLE THOUGHT THE cold spell associated with the Christmas holidays would soon dissipate as Valentine's Day draws near, the country's weather bureau registered the coldest temperatures of the monsoon season.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) recorded yesterday morning the coldest temperatures since October last year—9.6 de-

WHY METRO/ A12

Pianist says studies indicate classical music is brain food

REYNALDO REYES: Nourishing brains, the soul.

By Fernando del Mundo

IT'S BEEN 68 YEARS SINCE A cock's crow led a poor boy to the world's greatest concert halls playing Mozart on the piano and the discovery that classical music is not only good for the soul but also nourishment for the brain.

Now, Reynaldo Reyes is bringing to the Philippines' rural folk both the music of the masters and the message that classical melodies revive damaged brains, stimulate the intellect and impel it to function at its highest level.

Since 2001, Reyes has been flying to Manila at least twice a year at his own expense from his home in Baltimore, Maryland, to give free concerts in schools, gymnasiums, malls and plazas and to discuss the virtues of classical music education.

"I found out in most cases during the open forums that Filipinos don't think of music as an instrument for self-improvement. They only think of it as something nice, or something that they like, otherwise they don't listen to it," Reyes says.

"But if you know it's important,

PIANIST/ A8

REM ZAMORA

THE COLOR OF ROCES: This early, FPJ's widow is showing her political preference for the likes of Rep. Chiz Escudero shown here with his wife Christine.

Escudero files candidacy to stop intrigues

By Jerome Aning

SAYING THE OPPOSITION FORCES should be united and with his most powerful backer, actress Susan Roces, by his side, House Minority Leader Francis "Chiz" Escudero yesterday became the first antiadministration stalwart to file his candidacy for the Senate.

By formalizing his senatorial bid under the fragmented Nationalist People's Coalition, the 37-year-old Sorsogon lawmaker put to rest all rumors that Malacañang was courting him to join its so-called "Team Unity" slate.

"The intrigues are too much. Sup-

ESCUDERO/ A6

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Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Second FrontPage

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Central Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Eastern Luzon will have cloudy skies with light rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/01/30/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Senators wary of poll summit

PLEA BARGAIN
Plunder co-accused Atong Ang confers with Ferdie Ramos, said to be the public relations man of deposed president Joseph Estrada, during a break of the in yesterday's proceedings of the Sandiganbayan on Ang's plea bargain with government prosecutors. Ang recently offered to plead guilty to a lesser offense after admitting that he had conspired with Estrada to divert P130 million in tobacco excise taxes and getting a P25 million share. The antigraft court deferred action on the plea bargain. RAFFY LERMA

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's proposal to call an election summit to ensure clean and orderly polls in May has been met with skepticism at the Senate.

But Malacañang said it received expressions of support elsewhere and would soon call a meeting to discuss how to go about convening the summit.

The President proposed the other day for the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Commission on Elections, election watchdog organizations and the police to come together in a summit to discuss plans on how to ensure that the May polls are credible and orderly.

But Sen. Richard Gordon, the chief proponent of automated elections, said without a poll automation system in place, the planned summit would amount to nothing.

The President last week signed the Automated Elections Systems Law but the Comelec doubts it can be implemented by May. The law provides for the use of an automated elections system in six provinces and six highly urbanized cities in the May polls, and full automation.

No automation, no summit

"Whatever summit you call, nothing will happen if the system is rotten ... the people will end up the losers if the counting is not quick and there's vote padding and shaving in far-flung areas," Gordon told reporters.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the President did not have the credibility to call such a summit.

"Considering the penchant of the President for double-speak, I'm not sure that amounts to anything. It's just meant to earn brownie points," Pimentel said.

Lacson said hearing Ms Arroyo call for a summit on clean elections was like "hearing Count Dracula promising to mend his blood-sucking ways."

"Mrs. Arroyo should show her sincerity and take the first step by admitting there was massive cheating in the presidential polls in 2004," he said.

'Hello Garci' scandal

The President has been unable to shake off charges that she conspired with an elections commissioner to rig the results of the 2004 vote to ensure her victory in what has been known as the "Hello Garci" tape scandal.

She admitted only to a "lapse in judgment." The opposition has twice failed to impeach her.

Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo, who has been put in charge of the election summit, said the government was "gratified and encouraged" by the support given to the proposal by CBCP leaders and the Comelec.

Saludo said he would call a "summit planning meeting" soon and has invited other religious groups, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, the Philippine National Police and the Department of Education.

The meeting would define the "objectives, participants, issues, activities, date, venue and other parameters of the summit," Saludo said.

With Christine Avendaño

'Jueteng' buys votes, Bishop Cruz warns

By Christian V. Esguerra

WITH THE APPROACH OF THE MAY elections, a Catholic bishop has stepped up his campaign against "jueteng," the illegal numbers game, saying he feared its profits will boost the campaign kitties of certain candidates.

"Jueteng money bribes some election officials, pays for campaign expenses, buys votes," said Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz in a statement yesterday.

Cruz has been fighting jueteng for some time on different fronts—against its operators, the politicians who protect them, and law enforcers.

"(It) takes away votes from honest and upright candidates and credits votes in favor of corrupt and corrupting pretenders for public office. (It) thus throws good and worthy candidates out of the possibility of holding public office," Cruz said.

Cruz, who heads the advocacy group Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, had earlier briefed his fellow bishops on the extent of jueteng operations in the country during their annual plenary assembly.

Some of his peers at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) responded by urging the faithful not to vote for political aspirants with known jueteng links. The numbers game earns millions of pesos a day for its operators.

"Jueteng payola makes certain political candidates salivate," said Cruz. "Jueteng beneficiaries have a big chance of winning elections."

Recently, though, he said, certain political personalities who had tried to form a "triad of gambling giants" appeared to have turned against one another.

"It broke apart to the extent that they are [now] perceived [to be] mortal enemies," he said, without elaborating or naming names. "It is now a question of who has the staying power, who will really last."

For the midterm elections in May, the prelate said he was mobilizing Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng to actively campaign against candidates known or believed to benefit from the illegal game.

He said Krusadang had "no option but to (add) its little voice and small manpower to the loud clamor for the election of honest and able candidates."

"It is an open secret that elections in this country are anything but honest, orderly and peaceful," he said. "The truth is that even months before the May 2007 elections, there have already been assassinations."

Jueteng is known to be operated by persons who enjoy protection from politicians and law enforcers and is one of the main causes of corruption in the country.

Comelec lifts ban on surveys

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HAS lifted the ban against publishing poll survey results on national candidates 15 days before election day and local candidates seven days before election day.

"We have already amended the resolution to reflect what is legally correct; we are deleting the provision which was declared unconstitutional before," Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., speaking for the election agency, told reporters yesterday.

Comelec Resolution No. 7767, passed last Nov. 30, banned the publication of any survey on national candidates 15 days before the day of the election. Surveys on local candidates were also prohibited from being published seven days before election day.

Resolution 7767 was supposed to implement RA 9006.

Social Weather Stations president Mahar Mangahas said Resolution 7767 was illegal because its provisions on surveys were based on similar provisions in Republic Act No. 9006, or the Fair Elections Act of 2001, which the Supreme Court had declared unconstitutional.

Comelec education and information department director James Arthur Jimenez said that the insertion of the questioned provisions "was the result of inadvertence and not at all intended to curtail the people's right to information and limit the freedom of the press."

On May 5, 2001, the Supreme Court, upon the complaint of television network ABS-CBN, declared the survey provisions of RA 9006 as unconstitutional, saying surveys are protected by the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.

Jimenez said copies of the amended resolution would be available to the public once all Commissioners have affixed their signatures to the document.

JoeCon: No to automation

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

HE IS AN ADVOCATE OF POLL AUTOMATION, but after trying his best to come up with a "win-win solution," even National Movement for Free Elections national chair Jose Concepcion Jr. admits implementing it in the next elections, even in just one small town, would be impossible.

"We have to face reality," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Concepcion had been coordinating both with Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos and Sen. Richard Gordon.

Concepcion said he was proposing to have computerized elections even "in just one small municipality" because this would be a good way to start implementing full poll automation in 2010.

He said he could ask help from a foundation or a foreign government which could lend machines for free.

Less than four months before the election, Abalos said even partial automation was no longer possible because of limited time. But Gordon, who authored the law, said it was just a question of will.

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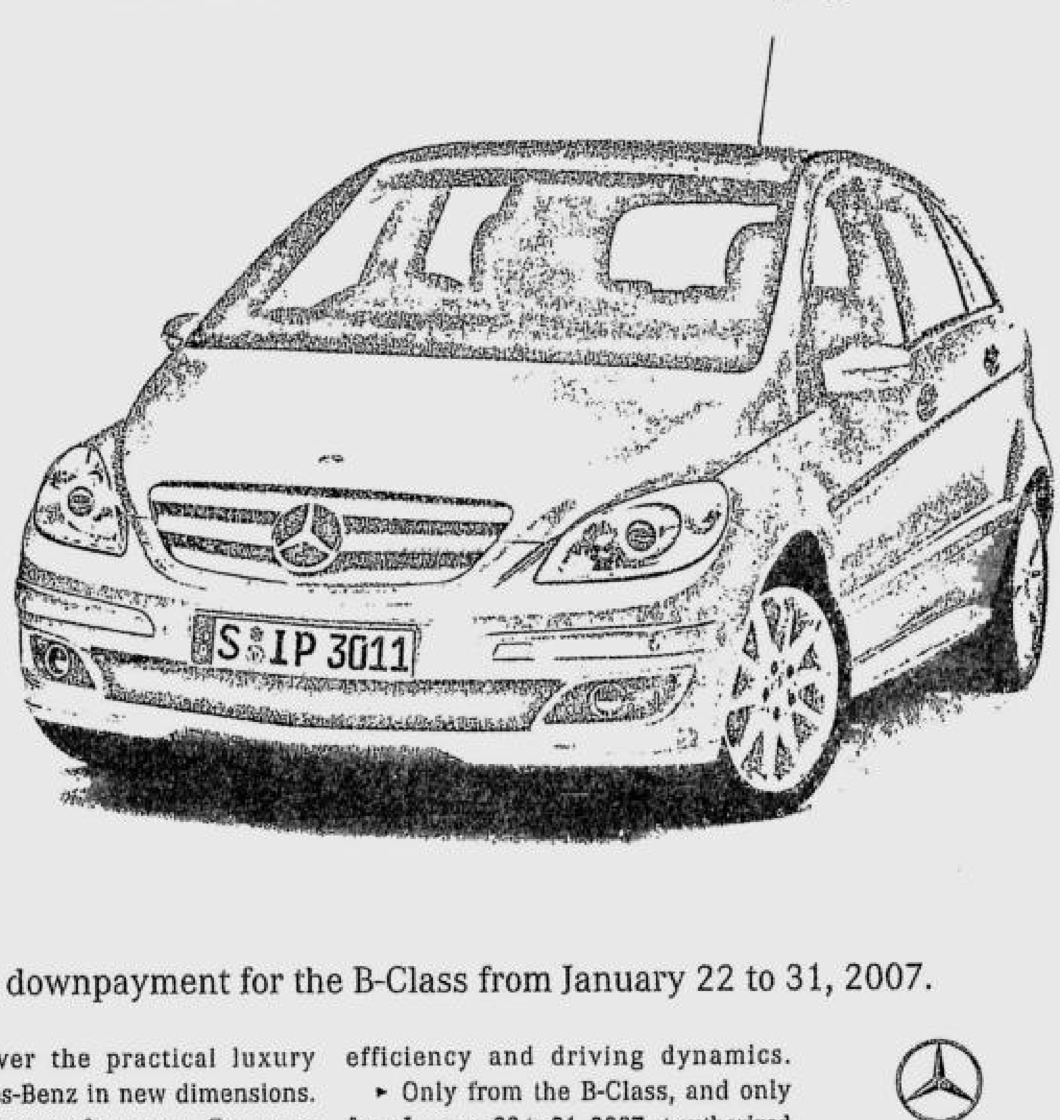

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[illegible] Series of 2007

STALLED BY RAPE CASE

War games scaled down

By Dona Pazzibugan

THIS YEAR'S BALIKATAN MILItary exercises between American and Filipino soldiers will push through as scheduled on Feb. 18-March 4 but at a drastically reduced scale and will involve only classroom discussions, military authorities announced yesterday.

Both Philippine and American military officials said this was because preparations for the annual war games under the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement were stalled last month by the custody row over over an American soldier convicted of raping a Filipina.

That disagreement was resolved when Malacanang surreptitiously handed over convicted Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith to the US Embassy on the night of Dec. 29—even without a court order.

But according to Lt. Col. Mark Zimmer, spokesperson of the US Army Pacific Command: "It was too late for the field training exercises to be rescheduled."

Staff exercises

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said yesterday only about 380 Filipino troops and roughly the same number of American troops would participate in the forthcoming exercises, compared to about 5,000 American and 2,800 Filipino participants last year.

Esperon also announced that instead of field trainings and exercises at the Philippine Marine Base in Ternate, Cavite, and in two Philippine Army camps in Central Luzon , only "staff exercises" or classroom discussions would be held at the former Clark air field in Angeles City and in the Camp Aguinaldo military general headquarters in Quezon City.

Civic missions in Sulu, where Filipino troops are pursuing remnants of the extremist Abu Sayyaf Group, will also be held, according to Esperon.

About 5,000 American troops and about 3,000 Filipino troops were originally expected to participate in the annual war exercises governed by the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

"At this time, the field training exercises are still no go. There will be a delay, but my understanding is this will be pursued in the next quarter," Esperon told reporters.

Lt. Col. Zimmer, confirmed in an e-mailed response to queries from reporters at Camp Aguinaldo, that "the reason the numbers are down is because the field training portion (FTX) of the exercise was cancelled because of the disagreement over the Visiting Forces Agreement."

He said only around 400 American soldiers will join this year's exercises, of which about 150 will go to Sulu to conduct medical and engineering civic projects.

"We're estimating that the US will spend $250,000 on Engineering Civic Action Projects and Medical Civic Action Projects for Balikatan 07," Zimmer said.

Last Dec. 22, the US Pacific Command cancelled the scheduled Balikatan exercises in protest over a Makati City court's refusal to turn over custody of Smith to the US Embassy in Manila.

The US position was that under the VFA, Smith should remain in US custody until the end of his appeal process.

'Brand new day' for RP

By Christine O. Avendano

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday said Congress' passage of the P1.126-trillion 2007 national budget signaled a "brand new day for the Filipino people towards greater social, economic and political stability."

Thanking Congress for "putting the interest of the people in the front line," Ms Arroyo underscored anew the importance of the approval of the budget in the lives of the people.

"This budget helps put our fiscal house in order and signals to the world that the Philippines is more than ready to do business and bring the fruits of the economy to every household," she said in a statement.

"Every item in the budget is designed to push good governance to the limit, strengthen confidence and enterprise, drive up investments and jobs, deliver social dividends and fight terror and crime."

With the new budget passed by Congress, the President vowed that the executive branch would do its part in collecting much needed revenues for its expenditures, pushing disciplined spending and resource conservation, cutting red tape and checking graft and corruption.

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GUINNESS WORLD
RECORD HOLDER

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Benjamin S. Tiu, Quezon City

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Ricardo T. Pelonio, Cavite

Visayas
Marcelo Rivera, Tacloban
Monica I. Togonon, Southern Leyte

Mindanao
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3952 Series of 2006

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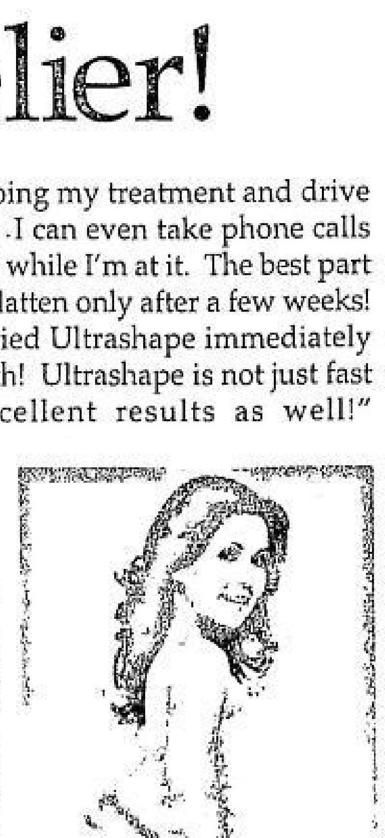
Lyn Ching – Pascual, 34
Smart and sassy mom

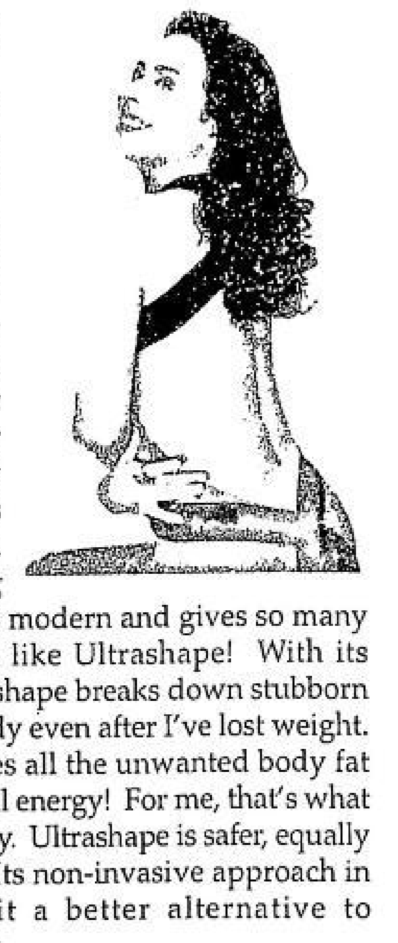
Always on the go, Lyn makes sure that she never runs out of quality time for her daughter and husband Jappy. Lyn wants to do things fast under a pretty much organized schedule. In fact, her fast-paced lifestyle is the same reason that brought her closer to Marie France's Ultrashape. She says, "With Ultrashape, all I have to do is walk in, lie down for about an hour while undergoing my treatment and drive my way back to work again. I can even take phone calls or read some magazines even while I'm at it. The best part was, I could feel my tummy flatten only after a few weeks! A friend of mine who also tried Ultrashape immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape is not just fast and easy, it delivers excellent results as well!"



Cristina Gonzalez – Romualdez, 42
Posh and classic mom

Despite the busy nature of her catering business, Cristina prefers spending most of her quality time in Tacloban where time moves slowly. It is where she best personifies calm and domesticity while still donning a classy, graceful image.

She states, "I love my life in the province. Strolling along the beach, wearing simple dresses and enjoying the serenity of the place with my family. It strips me off the frills and stresses from work and city life. If I overindulge in good food because of the relaxing environment, all I have to do is to have my tummy flattened by Ultrashape. Just like my preference for comfort, Ultrashape requires no drastic surgeries and harmful side-effects. It doesn't require complicated diets and it leaves no ugly scars. It's a very convenient, simple and risk-free method to re-sculpt the body by melting away loose tummy fat that makes one look and feel older and less attractive."



Dawn Zulueta–Lagdameo, 37
Glam and modern mom

Dawn is no doubt devoted and hands-on with her son Jacobo. But during her spare time, she indulges on her penchant for stylish shoes, fashionable clothes, costume parties and her ipod music collection. Her chic and cosmopolitan taste with just about everything makes her an exciting, contemporary mom. For Dawn, it's always an advantage to be up-to-date.

"Even with my slimming option, I go for the one that's modern and gives so many benefits at the same time – like Ultrashape! With its ultrasound technology, Ultrashape breaks down stubborn fats that are left inside my body even after I've lost weight. What's good is, it metabolizes all the unwanted body fat so it can be converted to useful energy! For me, that's what makes liposuction unnecessary. Ultrashape is safer, equally hi-tech yet just as effective. Its non-invasive approach in body contouring makes it a better alternative to liposuction!," Dawn explains.

This year, give yourself a slimmer, sexier body. Forget about liposuction, excruciating diets and tiring workouts! If you are still left troubled with some stubborn fats that just won't go away even after going through your crash diets, rigid workouts or even a surgical procedure, schedule yourself for an Ultrashape treatment right away! It promises an average reduction of about 2cm in just one treatment – without the risks and side-effects, surgical scars and downtime! Call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639).

3 solons go 'fishing' in Germany

By Michael Lim Ubac and Nikko Dizon

FACT FINDING OR FISHING expedition, Congressmen Marcoleta, Cajes and Cerilles leave for Germany. Note the facial expressions of those who saw them off. JESS YUSON

ADMINISTRATION REPRESENTAtives Roberto Cajes of Bohol and Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta flew to Munich yesterday on an official fact-finding mission to verify allegations of a bank account or accounts being held in a German bank by the First Family.

Citing the icy weather in Europe at this time and the expense, opposition Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales and Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez declined to join the team, saying the trip was nothing but a junket.

The First Family's accuser, House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, refused to join the trip.

Arroyo has denied that any member of the First Family kept a bank account in Germany. The First Gentleman, along with son, Rep. Juan Miguel of Pampanga, and brother, Rep. Ignacio of Negros Occidental, filed cases with the ethics committee against Cayetano and sought the latter's expulsion from the House for "disorderly behavior."

'Toothless tiger'

"They're on a fishing expedition ... but it's winter," Cayetano said.

He said that the six-day mission was a "toothless tiger because there's no net."

Golez noted that without a waiver to authorize the opening of all local and foreign bank accounts of the First Family, "that trip would be a merry goose chase, more difficult than breaching the Berlin Wall."

In a pre-departure press conference at the Naia yesterday, Cajes said the allegations involve "the integrity and dignity of the members of the House. That's the thing that's at stake now."

Any documents obtained from the bank would be authenticated by German lawyers and the Philippine Consul General in Germany, said Cajes.

Marcoleta said the trip would not have been necessary had Cayetano produced the evidence on which he based his allegations. Without the evidence from Cayetano, the committee was forced to look for the evidence itself to help the members decide the case against their colleague, he said.

Secret accounts

On Feb. 2, the team will meet with officials of the Bayerische Hypo und Vereins Bank where the First Family, Cayetano claims, allegedly keeps millions of dollars in secret bank accounts.

The three Arroyos presented to the ethics committee a bank certification attesting that no member of the Arroyo family held any account with the bank.

Cajes and company are scheduled to fly back to Manila on Feb. 6.

Pro-administration congressmen said the decision of the minority to opt out of the Munich mission meant they were avoiding an opportunity to directly question the HypoVereinsbank officials and examine documents.

Legit expedition

Rep. Benasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur denied that the probe was just a junket, saying it "was just a lame excuse of the minority," and that the alibi was plainly a "face-saving move."

"If they are really keen on defending their colleague and knowing the truth, they would have shown greater interest in the probe," said the administration ally, pointing out that the Munich probe was part of the legitimate function of the ethics committee to "determine all the facts from the source."

He said the outcome of the Munich trip would help the committee in deciding the Arroyos' complaint against Cayetano.

Travelling execs face monitoring

TRAVEL-HAPPY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS will not be able to keep their foreign sojourns secret anymore.

The Bureau of Immigration will soon be issuing new immigration cards that categorically ask passengers to state if they work for the government.

The new immigration cards are part of the government's lifestyle check program designed to catch corrupt state officials, according to Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Fernandez said the idea to have the travel cards ask a passenger the definitive question about whether or not he is employed by government came from Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

The new travel cards will come in use starting Feb. 15 at the country's international airports.

"Right now, a card only asks a passenger what his or her occupation is, thus a traveling government worker can just say that he is a businessman or somebody else," said Gary Mendoza, the immigration regulations chief.

But with the new-style immigration card, a government employee who gives a false answer could be held liable for falsification of public documents, he said.

According to Mendoza, a traveling government official might not want to reveal his true occupation so he or she can avoid the lifestyle check and skirt the regulations requiring state employees to obtain a travel authority from their department heads whenever they travel abroad. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Pimentel pooh-poohs BOC feat

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO Pimentel Jr. yesterday said the higher collection of the Bureau of Customs last year was due mainly to higher imports as he noted that domestic manufacturing had declined.

"We must not give undue credit to the customs bureau for exceeding its collection target because it was due to higher importation, especially of mineral fuels, lubricants, petroleum oils and related products," Pimentel said.

Citing the latest National Statistics Office (NSO) report, Pimentel said mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials posted the highest growth of 49.8 percent among Philippine imports from January to October 2006.

He said the imported value of these products rose to $583.58 million during the 10-month period in 2006 from $389.71 million in the same period the previous year.

According to the NSO, the high volume of crude and other oils and fuels imported was responsible for the increase.

On the other hand, Pimentel said, the Bureau of Internal Revenue collected less in value-added and excise taxes from petroleum products when the Caltex refinery in Bataan, which used to process crude oil, was closed down. The Bataan refinery contributed heavily to the BIR. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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Querubin, alleged coup plotter, sick with malaria

By Dona Pazzibugan

QUERUBIN

MARINE COL. ARIEL Querubin, one of the alleged principal instigators of a coup attempt last February, was brought to a military hospital in Quezon yesterday after he was confirmed to have malaria.

Philippine Navy officials relented and allowed the transfer of Querubin to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center (former V. Luna Hospital) from his detention cell in Fort San Felipe in Cavite City to get treatment, a Navy spokesperson said.

Querubin was accompanied by three security escorts, a military nurse and a paramedic when he was moved out of his detention cell at around 7:30 a.m. yesterday, according to Cmdr. Giovanni Carlo Bacordo.

Since December, Querubin's wife Maria Flor has asked Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Rogelio Calunsag to allow the bemedalled officer to return to his original detention cell in Fort Bonifacio so he could be treated at the AFP Medical Center.

In her letters to Calunsag, Mrs. Querubin said her husband's life was "in danger" since the malaria strain that struck him "can attack the brain and cause cerebral stroke or death."

Querubin has been in and out of the Cavite Naval Hospital (CNH) since December due to high blood pressure and chills, but later he was diagnosed with malaria for which he was treated several years ago.

In danger

"His life may be in danger considering that the CNH does not have complete and specialized diagnostic capability. It is also very far from V. Luna Medical Center which can provide the necessary medical services," Mrs. Querubin said.

"Even prisoners have the right to seek medical help," she added.

Querubin is among the handful of living recipients of the Medal of Valor, the military's highest award for exceptional bravery in combat.

Another Medal of Valor awardee, Marine Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon, is also detained for alleged mutiny.

Bacordo, however, pointed out that Calunsag only granted Mrs. Querubin's request for her husband to be treated at the AFP Medical Center.

Querubin will be returned to Fort San Felipe as soon as doctors recommend that he has recovered, according to Bacordo.

"Requests for treatment at the AFP Medical Center will be granted as long as his custodians are properly notified. But there is no need to transfer his detention [back to Fort Bonifacio]," he said.

Seriously ill

Querubin is the second officer implicated in the Feb. 24, 2006 alleged coup d'etat to have fallen seriously ill while in detention.

Marine Col. Januario Caringal was also rushed to the AFP Medical Center from Fort San Felipe late last year due to hepatitis.

Caringal remains confined at the Manila Naval Hospital and is recuperating, according to the Navy.

Querubin, Caringal, Parcon and five other senior Marine officers were transferred to Fort San Felipe from Fort Bonifacio last October after the military claimed to have uncovered an alleged plan to spring them from detention.

Former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, however, remained in Fort Bonifacio reportedly in recognition of his stature.

A total of 28 Marine and Army Scout Ranger officers led by Miranda, Querubin and former Scout Ranger commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim are charged with mutiny before a court-martial for allegedly planning to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo last Feb. 24, 2006.

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Palace sure allies will back unity ticket

MALACAÑANG IS CONFIDENT most of its allies will stand by President Macapagal-Arroyo when the administration comes out with its unity ticket, which could include pirated opposition figures.

Some of Ms Arroyo's allies have protested the possible inclusion of oppositionists in the administration's so-called Team Unity.

"We might not be able to satisfy members of the party but I believe that most of the party members would subscribe or follow the objectives of the President," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

He said that as in any democratic organization, one should not expect there would be 100 percent agreement on issues. *Christine O. Avendano*

Escudero files candidacy to stop ...

From page A1

posedly, I am being courted by the administration. We want to put a stop to it and erase all that and make our intentions clear," Escudero told reporters after hearing the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Manila Cathedral.

Walking to the nearby Commission on Elections headquarters, the congressman, his wife Christine Elizabeth, and Roces were mobbed by passersby and employees.

Escudero said the United Opposition (UNO), of which he is the secretary general, was expected to release possibly within the week its 12-member senatorial ticket.

"I am confident that UNO will be able to come up with a very strong slate," he said.

"Even with the alleged exodus from our group, we like to show that not everyone is leaving ... I am raising the opposition's standard," he said. "I am with the opposition and I will remain with it ... Many of us are still proud to be in the opposition."

VOTERS FOR TRUTHFUL POLLS: Sen. Richard Gordon (2nd, right) joins with the convenor and members of the volunteers for electoral reforms to ensure honest, clean and credible elections in May during a press conference at the Club Filipino on Tuesday. Others are (front row, from left): Ex-DSWD Secretary Corazon Alma de Leon; Leon Herrera, convenor; Marco de los Reyes, president, National Union of Students; Federico Agacolli, ex-president of the Philippine Bar Association; Gordon, and Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales. ROGER MARGALLO

Escudero said divisions occurred in any organization, downplaying reports that internal feuds were renting opposition ranks in the face of administration efforts to pirate some of their members.

But he also said: "It would be very ideal for UNO to be unified."

They 'courted' Susan

"They wooed me into coming here with them (*Nilambing nila ako para samahan sila*)," said Roces, explaining her presence at Escudero's filing.

Asked if she would support other opposition candidates, the hugely popular widow of late actor and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. said: "Let's take it one at a time. I choose my candidates."

She also said: "There's still no official list, so it's premature to say who I'm going to support ... If they were supportive of my husband [during the May 2004 polls], of course, I will support them."

A jab at GMA

"I'm always supportive of the majority of the members of the opposition, especially those who were with me in my fight for the truth," she added, referring to accusations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated Poe of victory in the 2004 elections.

Roces reiterated she had no plans to run for senator, saying, "It's not my line."

On the departure from UNO of former Senators Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Tessie Aquino-Oreta, she said: "They're my friends. It's my hope that our friendship will be maintained regardless of whatever political moves they make."

Escudero, who led two failed opposition attempts to impeach Ms Arroyo for alleged poll cheating, was the 17th person to file his senatorial candidacy.

The deadline of the filing for candidacy certificates is on Feb. 12.

If elected, Escudero said he would push for legislation on livelihood, decent housing, free college education, and health care for everybody.

"I'm very happy with his decision [to run] but I know there will be many tests," said his wife, who wore a yellow shirt printed with the word "Chiz" and her husband's image.

"My knowledge of politics is poor but I'm behind in every decision he'll make."

Loren: 'Am solo and priceless'

Escudero is the son of former agriculture secretary and longtime congressman Salvador Escudero. He was elected to Congress in 1998.

Another opposition stalwart, former Sen. Loren Legarda, continued to keep her political cards close to her chest.

She told the INQUIRER yesterday that she had not authorized anyone with political groups on her possible inclusion in their senatorial tickets.

"I come solo and priceless," Legarda said. "They can't speak for me. I can only speak for myself. I'm not yet a declared candidate."

No package deal

She denied that she had an agreement with Sotto, Oreta and former Sen. Anna Dominque Coseteng, all of the NPC, to join the administration slate as a group.

"There is no such thing as package deal. There's no such talk or agreement," she said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, son of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said he was "101 percent sure" that Legarda would make good on her promise to him to join the UNO slate once she decided to run.

Estrada said Legarda gave that assurance during her birthday party last week.

UNO spokesperson Rufus Rodriguez said the coalition was still open to including Sen. Edgardo Angara, Sotto and Oreta on its senatorial slate.

"If he does [seek endorsement] and he'd bring in the LDP (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino), the coalition will be happy to welcome him," said Rodriguez.

Only two slots open

Angara has not figured in any of the "tentative lists" of senatorial candidates released by the UNO-led coalition because he has not sought its endorsement, according to Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said the coalition would also welcome back Sotto and Oreta, who had broken away and joined the NPC.

"They are free to go back to the selection process. They will be welcomed, they will be considered," he said.

The UNO-led coalition apparently would not be able to take in all the six nominees of the divided Liberal Party. They include Sen. Francisco Pangilinan, Representatives Benigno Aquino III, Lorenzo Tañada III and Rufino Biazon, and former Rep. Florencio Abad.

If at all, only Pangilinan and Aquino would eventually be taken in, said Rodriguez.

"I'm sure we will be able to accept two or three of the candidates," he said. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and TJ Burgonio*

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOOSE FIREARMS: Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, Calabarzon police director, inspects one of three fragmentation grenades seized by police during its two-week campaign, which netted a total of 75 firearms and 49 persons arrested. MARLON RAMOS/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

'Money-sniffing ...

From page A1

The "money-sniffing dogs" will augment the X-ray screening of bags at the Naia, according to an airport authority official.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the United States will demonstrate to airport and customs police how to handle money-sniffing dogs, said Angel Atutubo, the Manila International Airport Authority's assistant general manager for security and emergency services.

"The five-day demonstration will have dog handlers going around the airport to show our police how to work with the dogs that can detect bulk cash in bags," Atutubo told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Monday afternoon.

The demonstration includes three trained dogs of the TSA.

The participants are from the Airport Police Department, the PNP Aviation Security Group, and the customs police.

Classroom instruction on anti-money laundering by the TSA began last week.

P1M per dog

The training aims to enhance the ability of law enforcers to spot bulk cash brought by passengers in and out of Naia.

Atutubo said the Manila International Airport Authority was in the process of procuring dogs for its antimoney laundering campaign.

One dog costs at least P1 million. The airport authority has set a budget for the procurement of nine dogs, according to Atutubo.

The airport authority's K-9 roster is trained only in detecting explosives and drugs.

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Bicam okays 10% salary hike for state workers

By TJ Burgonio

THE BICAMERAL conference committee approved yesterday a measure granting a 10 percent increase in the salary of government employees, and providing a subsistence allowance for military and police personnel effective July this year.

In a major breakthrough, Sen. Franklin Drilon, Senate finance committee chair, and his House counterpart Albay Rep. Joey Salceda signed the bicam report on the measure.

The subsistence allowance and hazard pay will be provided to members of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, among other law enforcement agencies.

The report was now being routed for signing by members of the Senate and House panels.

If the bill is ratified by Congress and signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo, the salary increase of the 1.5 million employees and uniformed personnel would take effect July 1.

"We believe that this increase is necessary given the fact that the prices of commodities have gone up. There are enough funds in terms of government collection," Drilon told reporters in a briefing hours after meeting with Salceda.

The last time government personnel were granted an increase in basic pay, equivalent to five percent, was in July 2001.

The prices of goods and services have risen by 29 percent since 2001, and because of this, the purchasing power of peso has gone down to only P0.73, Drilon said, citing figures from the National Statistics Office.

"These economic difficulties have caused a large number of our government employees to quit the civil service and seek alternative employment in the private sector here and abroad," he said.

Drilon said funds for the increase would come from the P10.3 billion unprogrammed fund in the P1.126 trillion 2007 national budget, which was ratified by Congress last Monday.

"This will now be the enabling law in order to effect the increase effective July 1, 2007," he said, pointing out that 10 percent increase would cost P8.2 billion, while the increase in the allowance and hazard pay would amount to P2.1 billion.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said that Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya had confirmed setting aside the P10.3 billion to implement the pay increase.

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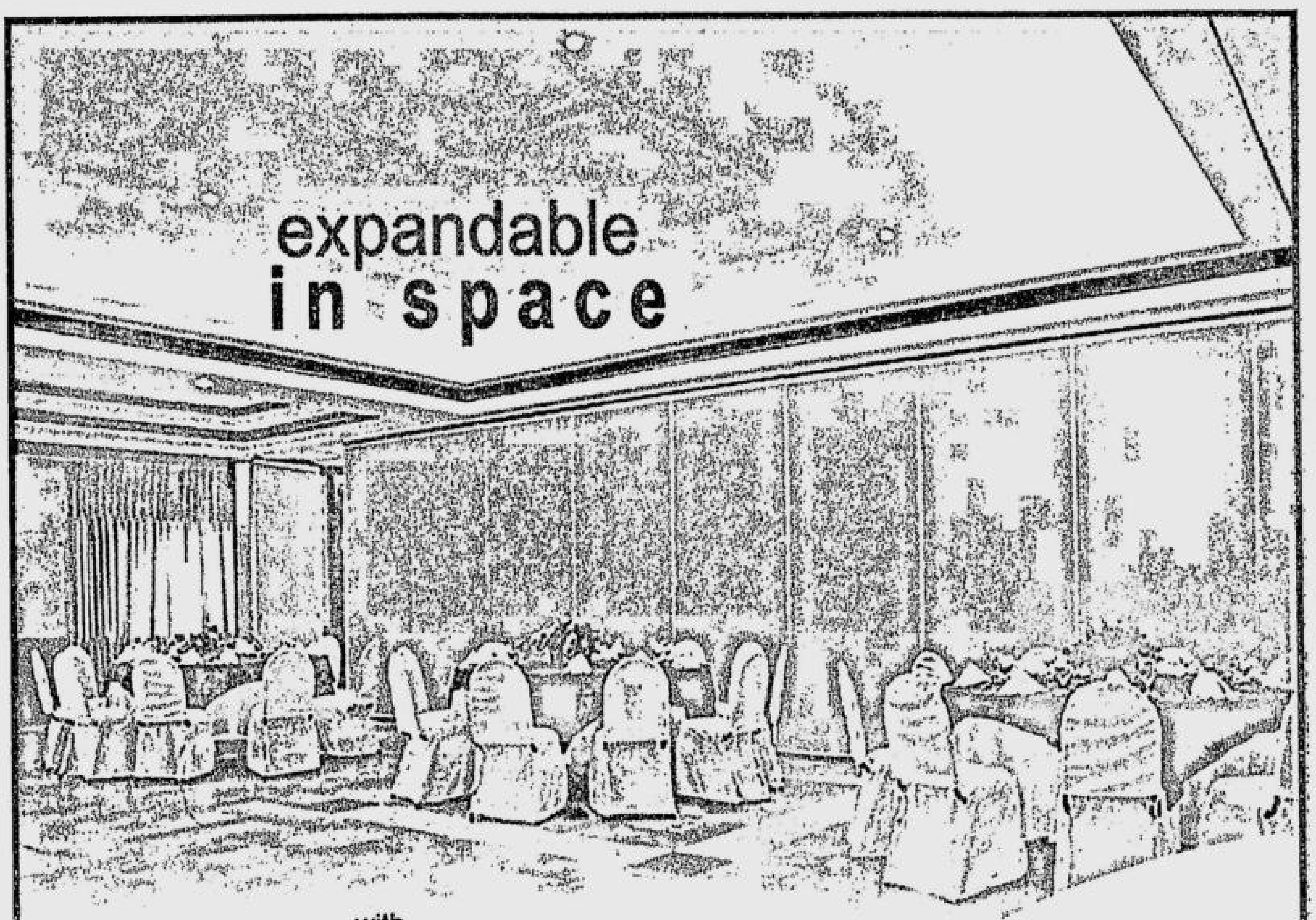

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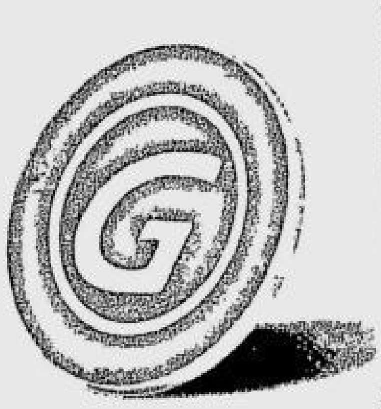

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Pianist says studies indicate classical music is brain food

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From page A1

you will listen to it even if you don't like it," he says.

"It's like medicine, you have to take it if you know it is good for your health. Music is food for the health of your brain," says Reyes, who is here for his provincial tours following concerts in Berlin, Paris and Amsterdam.

Korean example

He cites the example of Korea where, he says, mothers who can afford it force-feed their children with massive doses of Bach and Beethoven at a very young age.

In entrance examinations for Ivy League schools in the United States, Koreans who imbibed classical music easily make the grade among Asian examinees, he says.

That is why he laments that the late Education Secretary Raul Roco scrapped music, among others, from the Basic Education Curriculum for public schools in 2002 to give emphasis to what the former senator regarded as the key subjects—Math, Science, English, Filipino and Social Studies.

Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo then said that the revision was aimed at giving "learners more time for tasks to gain mastery of functional literacy, numeracy, orderly thinking and questioning."

Music as it was taught before was already bad, Reyes says, and was essentially all about organizing rondallas. "At least, it was there, now it's gone."

STUDYING WITH THE MASTER: Vincent Henningfield, 12, is under the tutelage of Reynaldo Reyes at Towson University in Baltimore.

The dumb get better

Because learning classical music requires concentration, students become more focused. "The thinking process is much more powerful, more intense among those who have taken it up," says Reyes.

The brain is composed of billions of neurons and cells, he explains. Most people say that if you don't use your brain, the billions of neurons and cells comprising it atrophy, but it never dies. "It's there but it does not function."

Reyes says music stimulates the brain through the synapse—the point at which a nervous impulse passes from one neuron to another.

"All things being equal, one who has listened religiously to classical music always gets higher grade. That's been scientifically proven," he says. "If you're dumb, you will improve."

Pop is all noise

But why classical music, why not pop as well?

"Because pop music is all noise. It's so loud. You're not using your brain. Classical music is so difficult and hard. You have to know what it is all about. It is not like you are going to like it at once. The only way you'll do is if you listen to it many times," he says.

An extremely modest man, this music messiah says he did not know he had a gift for music as a boy being brought up in the impoverished town of Alitagtag in Batangas, reared by a mother who earned a living first as a teacher and later as an embroiderer, and a father who became a mayor and whose salary of P70 a month wasn't even enough to share with his needy constituents.

There were a lot of debts, but all were paid and so the creditors never stopped lending so that the family was able to produce three doctors, two pharmacists, a lawyer and a musician.

As a 5-year-old, Reyes tended a poultry farm. He recounts that one day one of his roosters disappeared.

Subtleties in sound

"I thought it ran away," he says. "One week later, I was in school, I heard a cock-a-doodle-doo and I recognized it was my rooster. I followed the sound and I told the owner of the house it went to that my rooster was there. No, he said, that's mine. My father came and told him and the fellow finally admitted it was not his," Reyes says.

"My father asked me how I recognized the sound," he says. The son told him each rooster's crow had a distinct sound.

"They're all different ... My father suggested that I take up music because my ears could recognize different sounds," Reyes says.

"Recognition of the subtlety of sounds is very important in music and if you cannot distinguish them you have no business being a musician."

So, after elementary school in Alitagtag, Reyes went to Manila and enrolled simultaneously in high school at the University of Santo Tomas and in music in its newly formed Conservatory of Music. He graduated from both schools at 17.

He then went on a scholarship to study music further at the Conservatory in Paris. Upon graduation five years later, he won the top prize in a prestigious competition that established him as a top-rate concert pianist.

He later went for further studies at Peabody Conservatory, an adjunct of Johns Hopkins University, where he became a member of the faculty while at the same time giving concerts on the world stage and studying the practical effects of classical music on brain development.

Reyes tells the story of an experiment using mice to stress the correlation.

Mice, music, maze test

One such widely publicized test was conducted in 1997 by David Merrell, a high school student from Suffolk, Virginia, who won a science award for his experiment involving mice, a maze and music.

Merrell put the mice through the maze three times a week for three weeks and gave them 10 minutes to get out. A control group of mice that did not listen to music was able to cut five minutes off the required exit time. The mice that listened to classical music got out swiftest in two minutes.

The mice that listened to hard rock music took forever and some ended up killing each other.

Reyes says experiments also suggest that pregnant mothers who place a microphone on their tummy for 15 minutes daily to allow the womb to hear Mozart usually give birth to babies who are found to have in later years a high IQ.

Through the years, Reyes has in fact worked with children with development disorders, including his son who is afflicted with severe autism. This is a mental disability that afflicts 15 to 20 of 10,000 births, according to Filipino experts.

Autistic son now talks

Reyes's son was nonverbal. But Reyes worked on his son, getting him to play classical music and to listen to it. Now, he says his son, who is 25, can communicate and is living independently, although the symptoms of autism show in his behavior.

He also talks of a retarded girl, who became his goddaughter. At age 6, she began to take up music lessons from Reyes and to play the piano. "By the 11th year, she started talking. She's still retarded, but she's functioning," says Reyes.

"You must be convinced that music works as therapy," he says. "Otherwise, there is no intensity. You have to have conviction. It's how it works in life."

First Year Anniversary
ULTRA TRAGEDY

February 4, 2007

A CALL TO PRAYER

As the nation marks the first anniversary of the ULTRA Tragedy, we invite all families, parishes, communities and organizations to join us in 71 seconds of prayer :

...for the 71 Filipinos who perished in the aftermath of the stampede at ULTRA

...for the loved ones they have left behind

...for the many others injured in the unfortunate incident

...for all of us who share in the grief and sorrow of those who lost their lives and their loved ones in the aftermath of this tragedy.

"God, Our Father:

You are the Lord and Giver of Life.

Teach us, therefore, to value Life. Correct us when we gamble with the Lives of others. Counsel our conscience when we trivialize the loss of Lives.

May we learn from the lessons of the ULTRA tragedy. May it teach us greater love for our brethren. May it awaken in our hearts true compassion. May it help us to be more aware that You are ever present in the face of our fellowmen, especially the poor and underprivileged.

May the 71 deaths at ULTRA inspire us to work harder for the cause of justice, for the genuine conquest of poverty in our land.

Amen."

We are asking parish churches to ring their bells 71 times on Sunday, February 4, in memory of the 71 victims of the ULTRA tragedy, and to remember them and their families in the Prayer of the Faithful.

We are also asking families and civic organizations to light 71 candles, or release 71 green balloons, or lay 71 flower bouquets in appropriate locations to mark the first anniversary of their death.

Most important, let us pray together on this date.

Families for National Renewal (FNR)

Pick insider for SC post, CA justices urge GMA

By Leila B. Salaverria

"PLEASE CHOOSE AN INSIDER."

This was the plea of more than 60 Court of Appeals justices to President Macapagal-Arroyo in a letter in which they asked her to appoint a member of the judiciary, particularly the appellate court, to fill the vacancy in the Supreme Court.

The appellate court justices also said the appointment of one of them to the high tribunal would lift their spirits.

"With due respect, it is the sentiment of the justices of the Court of Appeals that the vacancy in the Supreme Court be filled, preferably by someone from our Court, which is by law, anyway, the second highest court of the land," the justices said.

"We beseech your goodness to please uphold the career judicial system and, thus, boost the morale of the entire judiciary," they added.

The Court of Appeals justices did not name anyone specifically in their Jan. 4 letter, but three of them had been nominated to the Supreme Court, namely, Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes, Justice Portia Hormachuelos and Justice Roberto Barrios.

Court of Appeals employees, on the other hand, endorsed Reyes to the President.

According to the Association of Court of Appeals Employees (ACAE), the 68-year-old Reyes had served 31 years in the judiciary. This was also his fifth nomination to the Supreme Court.

ACAE also said the Office of the Presiding Justice had been a good source of members for the Supreme Court, like incumbent Justice Cancio Garcia.

Maids, applicants protest new rules

By Jerome Aning

SOME 500 ANGRY MUSLIMS, MADE UP OF domestic helpers and applicants for overseas jobs, trooped to the Department of Labor and Employment yesterday to protest the government's new deployment policies for maids to work abroad.

The protestors from the Philippine Muslim Action Center called on Labor Secretary Arturo Brion to step down, saying that no foreign employer would want to hire them because of the new rules which raised a maid's basic pay to $400 (P19,500) and which required training and certification for all applicants.

PMAC president Taro Kalon described the new regulations as "antipoor" and "anti-Muslim."

In contrast, the Saudi Arabian-based overseas Filipino workers organization D'Heroes Group supported Brion's reform package for domestics, calling it a step toward ending abuse and exploitation of the most vulnerable group of OFWs.

In a letter to Brion, D'Heroes Group president Rosendo Aristeo Espiritu cited the new rules as "a noble aim" in raising the status [of domestics] and, in the process, ensuring [their] welfare and protection in Saudi Arabia.

Kalon, however, said the effects of the new rules would be felt in Muslim Mindanao because many families there depend on their daughters', wives' or sisters' ability to work as domestics abroad, even with a $200 (P9,700) a month salary.

He also scored the government's move to raise the minimum age limit for domestics to 25 years old. He warned that those who failed to meet this requirement might persist in going abroad by working as dancers or entertainers in bars and nightclubs.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, January 31, 2007
4th Week in Ordinary Time
St. John Bosco

1st Reading: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15
Gospel: Marcos 6:1-6

Jesus returned to his own country, and his disciples followed him. When the Sabbath came, he began teaching in the synagogue, and most of those who heard him were astonished. They commented, "How did this come to him? What kind of wisdom has been given to him that he also performs such miracles? Who is he but the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joset and Judas and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here among us?" So they took offense at him.

And Jesus said to them, "Prophets are despised only in their own country, among their relatives and in their own family." And he could work no miracles there, but only healed a few sick people by laying his hands on them. Jesus himself was astounded at their unbelief. Jesus then went around the villages teaching.

Commentary

We are told to learn discipline and strengthen our bodies, minds, hearts, and spirits to be faithful in resisting evil. We are to live on the straight path (the way of holiness) and all that is halting and dislocated in our lives/actions will be healed if we strive for peace and to carry and help one another on the way. And what does Jesus experience in his own community, family, and his own country? He is mocked, disparaged, and disdained. He is told to do a few miracles like they've heard of in other places. And they tell him he's nobody—one of them, son of Mary (a high insult for a Jew) and they know his kin and what he does for a living—a carpenter. "They found him too much for them" and Jesus found them without faith and it distressed him. And us—how do we find Jesus—do we distress him because of our lack of faith?

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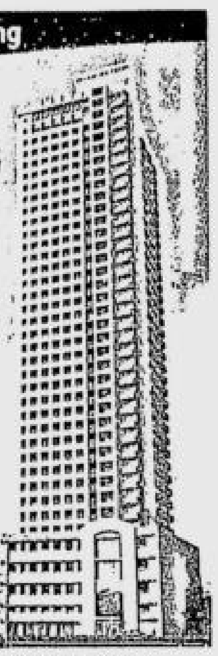

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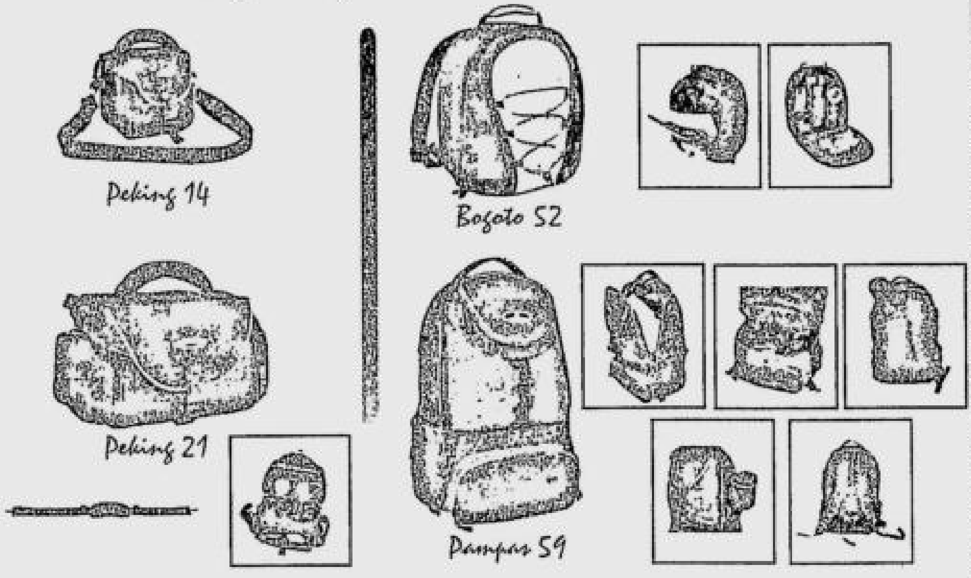

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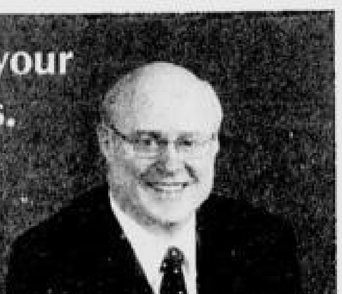

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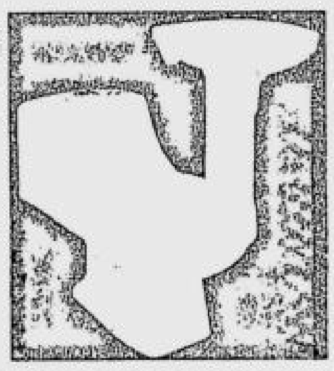

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Melo Commission can't invoke command responsibility, says Miriam

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE MELO COMMISSION CANnot invoke command responsibility in finding retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and other military commanders culpable for the killing of leftist activists in their respective areas during their tours of duty, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said yesterday.

Santiago, an expert in constitutional and international law, said the cases were only a domestic situation involving armed conflict and not a world war, where a tribunal could easily apply the principle of command responsibility.

She said it was also against the rules of criminal procedure.

"It's very easy to say, 'Well, let's just identify who were the ultimate command at that time and let's make him assume criminal responsibility.' But that is not going to be a fair result. First, you have to prove that he knew and then he gave his consent, whether expressed or tacit," Santiago said, adding:

"They will have to prove first that there was conspiracy between General Palparan and whoever was the individual soldier or group of soldiers that apparently carried out the atrocities before you can even include him in the charge sheet."

Nuremberg

Santiago said the principle of command responsibility was first invoked in Nuremberg, at the international military tribunal in Germany in which Nazi leaders were prosecuted by Britain, France, Russia and the United States after World War II.

The idea was to punish the leaders, particularly the generals, responsible for the atrocities of their men during the war.

Santiago said the doctrine of command responsibility laid down by the Nuremberg Tribunal did not necessarily produce a just result in a case of armed conflict within the civilians of the same community.

"To make a blanket statement that since there was only one general, that general will have to assume responsibility for anything that his men committed, whether he knew or approved of it, is not allowed by the Rules of Court," she said.

"It was not a war situation, it was not a battle situation. It was more of what they call in international law a situation of armed conflict," she added.

Santiago also said it was neither "a case of states fighting each other, in which case command responsibility is necessary so that the victor can ensure that the vanquished state will never do it again."

She said there should be a more thorough inquiry into the matter by the National Bureau of Investigation. But she admitted that this would take years.

GMA to seek Europe help in probing slays

From page A1

Esperon said that the task would fall on the civilian courts, and that, at any rate, no witness had directly implicated Palparan, whom militant groups had tagged a *berdugo* (butcher).

He also pointed out that Palparan was never "formally investigated" prior to his retirement.

"There was no formal complaint. It was all allegations. So what [would be] the basis for an investigation?" Esperon said in a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

"If indeed there is evidence, then he could be brought to court. But since he is already retired, we cannot take him under our jurisdiction," Esperon added.

He also said command responsibility did not apply to the extrajudicial killings because "criminal acts only involve the individual."

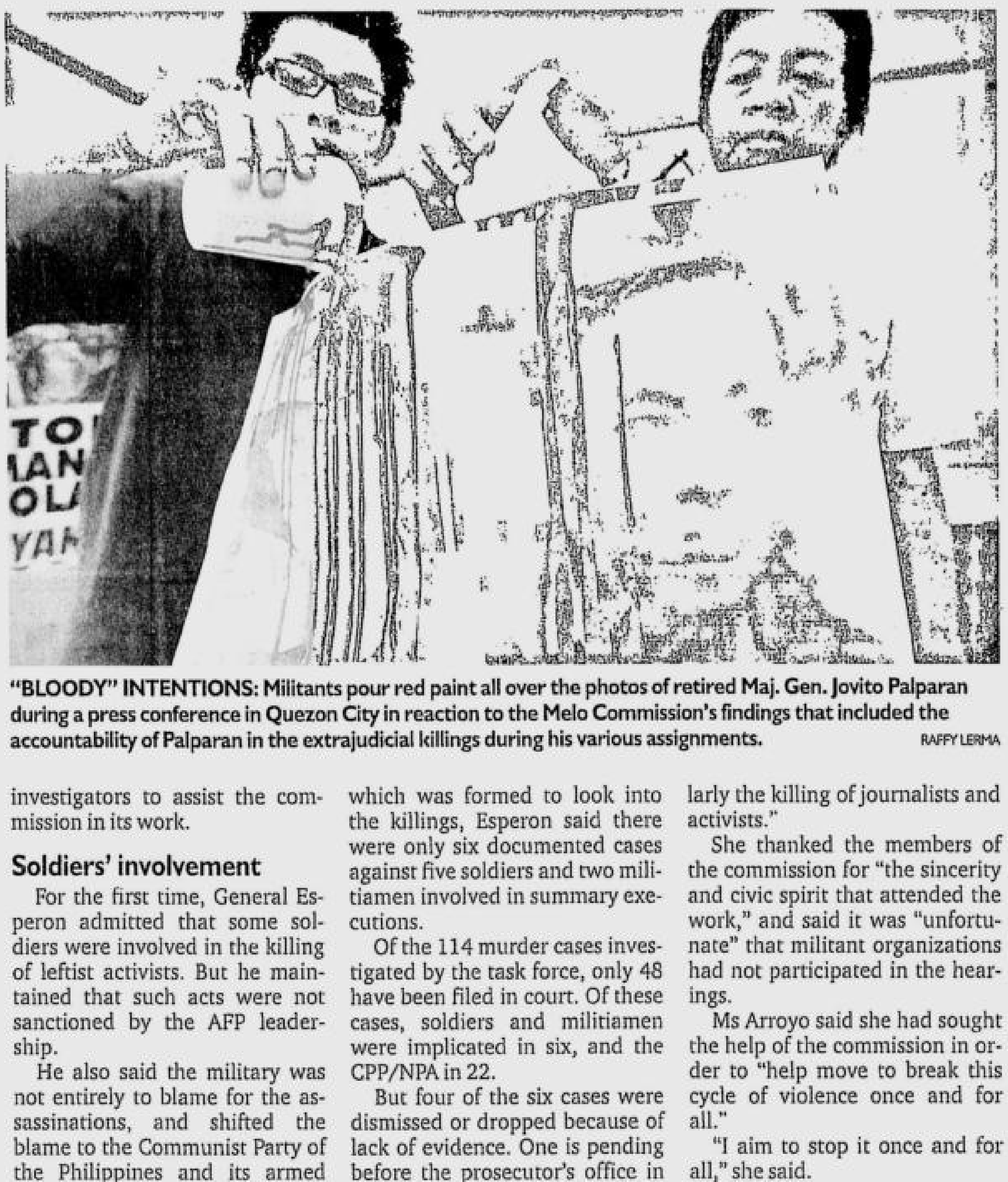
Palparan, whose last posting was as commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Nueva Ecija, retired last Sept. 11.

The President heaped praise on him in her State of the Nation Address last year.

6 points

In her instructions, the President directed:

- The Melo Commission to continue with its work and "submit supplemental reports from time to time."
- The Department of National Defense and the AFP to come up as soon as possible with an updated document on command responsibility.
- The DND and the Department of Justice to link up with the Commission on Human Rights in forming a fact-finding body to "delve deeper into the matter of involvement of military personnel in unexplained killings, file the corresponding charges against, and prosecute culpable parties."
- The DOJ to broaden and enhance its Witness Protection Program to cover all witnesses to the killings.
- Her chief legal counsel, Sergio Apostol, to draft a letter to the Supreme Court seeking the creation of special courts for the trial of cases involving extrajudicial killings.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs to submit a formal proposal to the European Union to send investigators to assist the commission in its work.



"BLOODY" INTENTIONS: Militants pour red paint all over the photos of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan during a press conference in Quezon City in reaction to the Melo Commission's findings that included the accountability of Palparan in the extrajudicial killings during his various assignments. RAFFY LERMA

Soldiers' involvement

For the first time, General Esperon admitted that some soldiers were involved in the killing of leftist activists. But he maintained that such acts were not sanctioned by the AFP leadership.

He also said the military was not entirely to blame for the assassinations, and shifted the blame to the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"The killing of militants and media persons can be attributed to three groups—the military, the CPP/NPA and goons hired by some politicians," Esperon said.

"We acknowledge that some members of the AFP have been involved in the deaths of some members of militant organizations, but we definitely do not condone these. In fact, more than condemning these acts, we have taken action to investigate them in order to prosecute [those] responsible," he said.

Citing records of the Philippine National Police's Task Force Usig, which was formed to look into the killings, Esperon said there were only six documented cases against five soldiers and two militiamen involved in summary executions.

Of the 114 murder cases investigated by the task force, only 48 have been filed in court. Of these cases, soldiers and militiamen were implicated in six, and the CPP/NPA in 22.

But four of the six cases were dismissed or dropped because of lack of evidence. One is pending before the prosecutor's office in Naga City.

In the last case—involving the murder of peasant leader Nicanor de los Santos—the accused soldier, Cpl. Alberto Rafon, was discharged in October 2002.

Asked about the safety of witnesses who would testify against soldiers, Esperon said: "Why should they be afraid to come out?"

'Most democratic'

"The Philippines is likely the most democratic country in the region," the President said. "As I have said, I have no tolerance for human rights violations, particularly the killing of journalists and activists."

She thanked the members of the commission for "the sincerity and civic spirit that attended the work," and said it was "unfortunate" that militant organizations had not participated in the hearings.

Ms Arroyo said she had sought the help of the commission in order to "help move to break this cycle of violence once and for all."

"I aim to stop it once and for all," she said.

As though to provide proof of her sincerity, the President said she had "personally advanced the peace process in Mindanao to a new level of engagement [and] focused on interfaith dialogue, economic development and mutual security."

"I have done so with the largest international involvement," she said.

EU expressed alarm

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters that the President would seek the help of her European allies "because the feeling is the other groups will be more inclined to participate" in the commission's work with the presence of EU investigators.

Militant groups had boycotted all proceedings of the commission, saying it lacked credibility and independence.

"But these [European] investigators will be working under the umbrella of the commission," Bunye said, adding that the EU had earlier expressed interest in helping in the inquiry.

He said he thought the EU member-nations would "respond positively" to the President's letters of invitation, which are expected to be sent today.

"I think these countries are aware of the value we put on the protection of human rights, in the same manner that they value human rights," he said.

Bunye said Melo had expressed "no disagreement" with the President's directive that the commission continue with its work.

"I think they know the urgency of the work that is being done. I know they'll hit the ground running," he said.

He also said Ms Arroyo had issued her instructions based on the commission's general findings and recommendations.

Define command responsibility

"What's important is the President did what she believes is correct, and she would like to thank the [members of the] Melo Commission for performing their work. And they know they have to do some more additional work," he said.

Asked whether the President's instruction for the military and DND to come up with a clear definition of command responsibility would cover retired military officers like Palparan, Bunye said he did not want to preempt what officials would do. *(See related story above.)*

"I believe the objective ... is to make sure that the doctrine is laid out in very clear and unmistakable terms," he said.

He also said he had yet to read the commission's report.

Not just yet

The head of Task Force Usig, PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, said no action would be taken against Palparan just yet.

"We have yet to receive the report. We need to find out the findings before we can take any action against General Palparan. [Melo's] statements alone are not sufficient," Razon told the INQUIRER by phone.

He said the PNP needed "to ascertain the facts and [see whether] the evidence" warranted the filing of cases against Palparan.

When the INQUIRER pointed out that the Melo Commission had used Task Force Usig files in its probe, Razon said: "You must remember that the commission came up with its report based not only on our records [but] also interviews with the families [of the victims] and people in the communities."

At the DOJ, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he had not received any recommendation to use the commission's report as basis to take Palparan to court.

"How can we file a case against him? There is no recommendation that I know of. What I know is that it is some sort of preliminary report," Gonzalez told reporters.

He said that he met with Ms Arroyo yesterday, and that she did not talk to him about Melo's recommendation that Palparan and other commanders be held responsible for the killings.

Complainants hit

Gonzalez also assailed the complainants against the military for not attending the commission hearings.

He cited the case of the parents of two missing University of the Philippines students, who, he said, did not show up at the hearings because they were stopped by the human rights group Karapatan.

"We cannot get to the bottom of all this when the other side does not cooperate with you," he said.

Gonzalez also said he had wanted Palparan to serve as DOJ adviser on intelligence and security but that the latter did not seem interested.

"I think he's a very capable officer, and I know a lot of things said about him are impressions. Maybe his reputation precedes him," Gonzalez said. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Leila B. Salaverria*

International pressure imperative after Melo findings

From page A1

Indah Sari, along with other members of leftist organizations from Asia, Europe and South America, is in Manila to attend the Asian Conference on Participatory Democracy and Alternative Forms of Popular Power at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Conference participants were asked for their comments on the recommendation of the commission chaired by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Melo.

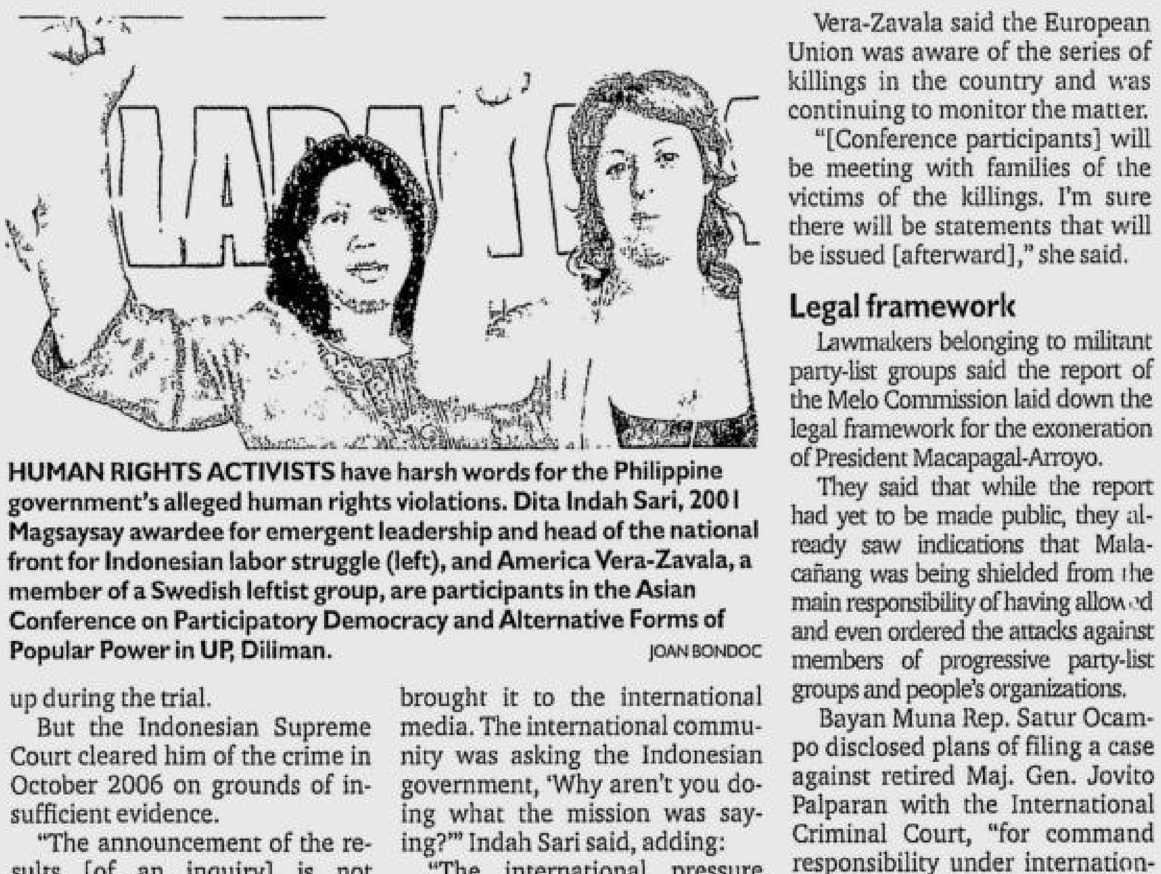
Untouchables

"It is very clear that the states are behind this to protect their own cliques. The people who do this are the top generals, top military officials. They are the untouchables. The governments don't want to have conflicts with these people," Indah Sari said.

She cited the case of Indonesian human rights campaigner Munir Said Thalib who, she said, was poisoned while on board a flight of the state-owned Garuda Indonesia airline in September 2004.

Indonesian intelligence agents and military brass were linked to the assassination, but a former Garuda pilot was found guilty of poisoning him with arsenic, Indah Sari said.

Allegations that the pilot, Pollycarpus Priyanto, was acting on orders from the supposed master



HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS have harsh words for the Philippine government's alleged human rights violations. Dita Indah Sari, 2001 Magsaysay awardee for emergent leadership and head of the national front for Indonesian labor struggle (left), and America Vera-Zavala, a member of a Swedish leftist group, are participants in the Asian Conference on Participatory Democracy and Alternative Forms of Popular Power in UP, Diliman. JOAN BONDOC

up during the trial.

But the Indonesian Supreme Court cleared him of the crime in October 2006 on grounds of insufficient evidence.

"The announcement of the results [of an inquiry] is not enough. It is the responsibility of the government to take concrete steps," Indah Sari said.

She said international pressure was imperative to spur concerned governments to make appropriate moves regarding human rights cases based on recommendations by a fact-finding body.

"In our case, when the report is released and its recommen

brought it to the international media. The international community was asking the Indonesian government, 'Why aren't you doing what the mission was saying?'" Indah Sari said, adding:

"The international pressure will humiliate the government."

America Vera-Zavala of Sweden's Left International Forum said making one general accountable would not solve the extrajudicial killings in the country.

"I'm quite sure this extreme [number] of people killed is not due to one single general. It would be a very unique country if only one general is responsible

Vera-Zavala said the European Union was aware of the series of killings in the country and was continuing to monitor the matter.

"[Conference participants] will be meeting with families of the victims of the killings. I'm sure there will be statements that will be issued [afterward]," she said.

Legal framework

Lawmakers belonging to militant party-list groups said the report of the Melo Commission laid down the legal framework for the exoneration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

They said that while the report had yet to be made public, they already saw indications that Malacañang was being shielded from the main responsibility of having allowed and even ordered the attacks against members of progressive party-list groups and people's organizations.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo disclosed plans of filing a case against retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan with the International Criminal Court, "for command responsibility under international humanitarian law."

"Melo is silent on GMA's (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) role. The killings go on even with Palparan out, so what has [the commission] accomplished?" Ocampo said in a phone interview.

Said Rep. Teodoro Casiño, also of Bayan Muna, in a text message: "The report merely scratches the surface and tells us what we already know."

"Why stop at the level of Palparan?" he said, pointing out that command responsibility went "higher than field commanders."

Casiño said Ms Arroyo as the Commander in Chief should be held accountable for the killings after she "encouraged and praised Palparan for his atrocities" during her State of the Nation Address last year.

He said the Melo Commission missed the whole point because "the institution of policies on counterinsurgency like Oplan Bantay Laya are crucial in allowing the likes of Palparan to wreak terror on a national scale."

'Whitewashing machine'

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said the Melo Commission had "consciously avoided the responsibility of the President, the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security and the counterinsurgency program Oplan Bantay Laya in its report."

"Like we said before, the Melo Commission is a whitewashing machine," he said.

Mariano also said the assassination of progressive mass leaders was "an integral component" of the Arroyo administration's counterinsurgency policy," and warned that "the killings won't stop as long as the mastermind is not punished."

His colleague in Anakpawis, Rep. Crispin Beltran, saw in the Melo report a move to make it appear that it was a mere matter of negligence of command that set off the spate of extrajudicial killings.

Beltran said the view that the killings were the handiwork of rebel elements within the military—whether the rightists or the anti-Arroyo factions—should not be given credence.

Added Ocampo:

"We are highly dissatisfied with the major findings of the Melo Commission, as made public by retired Justice Jose Melo. In sum, the commission failed in its public vow to get to the bottom of the killings: Its report, based on Justice Melo's statement to the media, is indicative of a whitewash.

"We suspect that Justice Melo chose to speak on the 'most popularly accepted' findings so that the military line on alleged purges by the Left and other baseless accusations of military apologists could also be considered and contained in the report.

Public disclosure

"We demand that Malacañang immediately make public the full 89-page report for scrutiny by all parties, including the media.

"The dismal performance of the Melo Commission buttresses the call for a genuine, independent commission that is competent and acceptable to the victims' families, the nation, and the world community.

"It must adhere to established UN protocols and Amnesty International's recommendations on such an independent commission."

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMAP)

50 Years of Championing Human Resource Management in the Philippines

Induction of 2007 Officers and Board of Directors

MESSAGES

Cordial greetings to the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) on your 1st General Membership Meeting for 2007 and the Induction of its New Officers and Board of Directors with the theme, "Exploring Beyond, Delivering Results."

This major gathering of human resource management practitioners and managers from different sectors of society that aims to stress the need for continuous innovations in your field of expertise is indeed commendable.

I laud your for your pivotal role in uplifting the standards of human resource management in the Philippines. Indeed, our country and our economy cannot move forward without your exemplary work.

Keep up the momentum so that we can beat the odds and provide a better life for our people.

Mabuhay!

(sgd.)GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) as you gather in your first General Membership meeting for the year 2007.

Human resource managers and practitioners serve as a strategic partner in ensuring organizational flexibility in attaining its goals and objectives. They provide advice, information and support to managers and employees on the range of human capital issues that are key effective organizational performance.

This gathering is not only an ideal venue to discuss vital issues and problems of human resource managers and practitioners but will also allow interactions and exchanges of ideas among your members about recent development in human resources management.

The Department of Education lauds your efforts in bringing together all human resource managers from different sectors of the society in order to reinforce the significance of innovations among your ranks in pursuit of the industry's advancement and nation building.

Best wishes for a successful general meeting!

(sgd.)JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

It is with great pride and honor that I welcome you all to PMAP's 51st year!

2007 will be a great year for our association, as we embark on an audacious journey in exploring creative ways that will deliver productive results to our members and our nation.

PMAP, in its aim to become the country's catalyst in the field of people management, has come up with innovative programs for the year. It is in this year that PMAP shall be known as **the PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES**, a great big leap in achieving global competitiveness by becoming not only an organization of human resource management practitioners but of people managers.

In this light, we have defined our goals for the year anchored on our vision of making PMAP the premier professional organization, which include: upgrading our research capability to become thought leader in HR; developing and implementing an HR Competency Certification Program; strengthening PMAP's timely and effective advocacy on HR-related and relevant national issues; pursuing the creation of a National HR Agenda and HR Commission; strengthening the implementation of Investor in People Program and HR School; enhancing our delivery of membership training and services; establishing interest-based fellowship programs; and the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee that will develop strategic plans for PMAP in the next 50 years.

Aptly enough, this year's theme, "Exploring Beyond, Delivering Results" shall steer us in the development and successful implementation of this year's programs. With creativity and innovation, combined with the tireless efforts of our new Officers and Board of Directors; Chapters, Committee Chairpersons and members, PMAP is surely to make a mark in this great undertaking.

I look forward to working with you all!

(sgd.)MARQUEZ O. GO, FPM
President

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2007 PMAP THEME:

EXPLORING BEYOND... DELIVERING GREAT RESULTS.

PMAP DARES TO EXPLORE BEYOND

2007 marks the first of another 50 years for the association. It is an opportunity to look forward - and move forward, with PMAP initiating strategic and future-oriented projects. 2007 is a year for changes and innovations, as the association implements a pivotal change in its corporate name, image and by-laws.

This year, PMAP transforms into the

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

a testament to the association's transformation from a professional grouping of human resource management practitioners to a broader constituency of PEOPLE MANAGERS.

To lay the foundations for this broader charter, PMAP puts focus in 2007 on the following strategic initiatives:

1. Active pursuance of the National HR Agenda advocacy, encompassing education reforms through alliance building with private sector, amendments to the Labor Code, good governance and anti-corruption and the promotion of world-class practices in people management
2. The establishment of the HR School that offers a Masteral program on Business Administration combined with Human Resource Management. It seeks the formation of people managers in all sectors of Philippine society.
3. Expansion of the Investor in People program to accelerate the practice of sound people management among Philippine companies.
4. Exercising professional HR leadership in the Asia Pacific region through HR federations and other international linkages.
5. A commitment to "thought-leadership" in theory and practice of people management by upgrading research facilities.
6. Broader programs for training and other member services for the strategic and personal effectiveness and development of HRM practitioners and people managers in various functional areas.

DELIVERING RESULTS

Advocating the fundamental premise that people are the primary creators of value, PMAP continues its various programs that equip HR practitioners and people managers with best management principles and practices.

PMAP's annual conference which averages 1,000 participants over the years is seen as the paramount learning event in the human resource management arena. This year's conference theme: **"People Delivers!"**, supports the second component of the overall theme:" **Delivering Results**".

The commitment to deliver great results is an affirmation of keeping PMAP's long standing tradition of bringing relevant and responsive services to its members. These services are delivered through the various Committees such as the Awards, Corporate Social Responsibility, Junior PMAP for college students, Industrial Relations, and the National HR Agenda Advocacy. PMAP's strong programs are supported by other various committees, industry groupings and chapters nation-wide with a growing 1,700 membership of corporate and individual members.

The theme, **"Exploring Beyond and Delivering Great Results"** is evidently dual in thrust, but PMAP aspires to make them come together in the promise of delivering value-filled programs for its various constituencies. With PMAP's steadfast dedication to promoting the link between people, performance and results, PMAP dares to explore and delivers the foundation for enhancing the competitiveness of the Filipino workforce in the HUMAN CAPITAL ERA.

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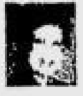

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'Twas coldest day in last two years; Baguio shivers under cloudy skies

By Gobleth Moulic
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—BLAME THE OVERcast skies for the chill.

Students and workers found it hard to get out of bed yesterday as the mercury dipped further to 9.6 degrees Celsius at 5 a.m., the coldest in the last two years.

Weather officials said cloudy skies helped in bringing down temperatures here in the last five days.

On Monday, the temperature dropped to 10.6 degrees Celsius, which was lower than last year's coldest at 11 degrees Celsius.

Joseph Rios, chief meteorological officer of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) station, said the sun's rays could not penetrate the thick clouds over the city so the temperature had been going down every day.

"If this trend persists, expect cooler, wet mornings ahead," he said.

Rains washed leaves

The all-time low of 6.3 degrees Celsius was recorded on Jan. 18, 1961.

People living near the 2,256-meter Mt. Sto. Tomas in Tuba, Benguet, have to endure cooler mornings as the mercury continues to hit 7 degrees Celsius.

Mt. Sto. Tomas, which hosts Pagasa's radar station, is the country's 18th highest mountain. It usually experiences frost from December to February.

But Rios, who visited Mt. Sto. Tomas on Monday, said there had been no reports of frost in the area.

Lolita Bentres, Benguet provincial agriculturist, said farmers in the uplands of Buguias and Mankayan towns in Benguet, where andap, or frost, blankets vegetable farms during this kind of weather, should not worry.

"It's a good thing it rained because the rains washed the leaves, stopping dew from forming," she said.

She said frost forms from the dew, causing the leaves to blacken.

Frost-free agri areas

In areas like Barangay Paoay in Buguias and Barangay Cada in Mankayan, the temperature is often 2 degrees Celsius lower than in Baguio.

Andap should have occurred starting November but the unusually balmy weather during the end of 2006 spared these agricultural areas, she said.

In 2005, at least P40 million worth of vegetables were damaged by frost in the towns of Buguias, Atok, Kapangan, Tublay and Mankayan.

The temperature in Baguio, the country's highest city at 1,520 meters above sea level, dropped from 13 degrees Celsius to 10.6 degrees over the weekend, said weather observer Efren Dalipog.

On Jan. 26, the city's temperature was 13.5 degrees Celsius; Jan. 27, 13.4 degrees; and Jan. 28, 13.6 degrees.

Factors

Rios cited various factors that contributed to the nippy weather, including the strong northeasterly winds, the northeast monsoon, a high pressure area in southeast China and a cold front.

A cold front occurs when a large air mass moves toward a section with warm air and a frontal surface develops separating the air masses in this area.

Rios said Baguio normally experiences cold weather until February, when the city celebrates the Panagbenga or the Baguio Flower Festival. *With a report from Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BONFIRES warm up the Camp John Hay Art Park.

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Why Metro folk cold as Valentine's nears

From page A1

grees Celsius in Baguio City and 18.7 degrees Celsius in Quezon City. *(See related story on Page A12.)*

Nathaniel Cruz, chief of Pagasa's weather branch, said yesterday's temperatures already broke last year's low of 19 degrees Celsius in Quezon City.

"Many expect that the cold will be tops in December. But when the northeast monsoon sets in, it doesn't really start very nippy," Cruz told the INQUIRER. "The temperature really starts to drop in the latter part of January to early February."

In Metro Manila, the coldest so far recorded was 15.1 degrees Celsius at Pagasa's Science Garden station in Quezon City.

"So we're still quite far off from the coldest temperatures ever recorded," Cruz said.

"It's not at all irregular that the atmosphere suddenly became colder in the past few days and will continue to be so in the coming weeks.

"This is really the time wh
sets in," Cruz said.

Late afternoons are partic
than in December, although
tures still rise to warm levels a

Cold front

"The warm temperatures ra
degrees Celsius to 30 degre
Metro Manila," Cruz said.

Aside from the northeast m
other weather system causing

Scientists warn millions to suffer wa

From page A1

by volumes focusing on the impact of climate change and on the socioeconomic costs of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

Other findings

Among the findings in recent drafts:

- The Arctic Ocean could largely be devoid of sea ice during summer later in the century.
- Europe's Mediterranean shores could become barely habitable in summers, while the Alps could shift from snowy winter destinations to summer havens from the heat.
- Growing seasons in temperate regions will expand, while droughts are likely to ravage further the semi-arid regions of Africa and southern Asia.

Blame human activities

The report says there is at least a 90-percent probability that human activities were to blame for most of the warming in the past 50 years. The previous report, in 2001, rated the probability at just 66 percent.

A chapter on Australia in the report on global impacts warns that coral bleaching in the Barrier Reef is likely to become an annual occurrence by as early as 2030 due to warmer, more acidic seas.

Bleaching occurs when the plant-like organisms that make up coral die and leave behind the white limestone skeleton of the reef.

Extinct

The World Heritage site, stretching over more than 345,000 square kilometers off Australia's northeast coast, will become "functionally extinct," the scientists are quoted as saying.

Average global temperatures have already risen about 0.7 to 0.8 degrees since 1900, which the report says contributed to increased bleaching in coral reefs in the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean.

At 2.0 to 3.0 degrees above 1900 levels, the report predicts th
loss" of Australia's alpine z
possible collapse of Sou
Amazon forest system, cau
loss of biodiversity."

More tropical storms

The human and economi
mate change are likely to
poor countries, with water s
pling many African nations
coastal flooding hitting lo
tries, such as Bangladesh an
ic islands, the report says.

In Europe, glaciers wou
from the central Alps, while
island nations would be hit
frequent tropical storms.

Dr. Graeme Pearman, wh
the report, said the messag
ery region of the earth woul
sure.

Slow to respond

"If you look at China, I
they will lose significant ra
agricultural areas," said Pea
mer climate director,of Aust
ence body, the Commonwea
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"It's really a story of tryin

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US offers P2.5M for captur

From page A1

An embassy statement said Usman "is a known terrorist with links to Jemaah Islamiyah and [is] believed responsible for bombings in Mindanao in October 2006 that killed eight innocent civilians and left 30 others wounded.

"He is also implicated in a recent series of bomb attacks in Mindanao that killed seven and wounded 37 others," the embassy added, posting Usman's photo on its website.

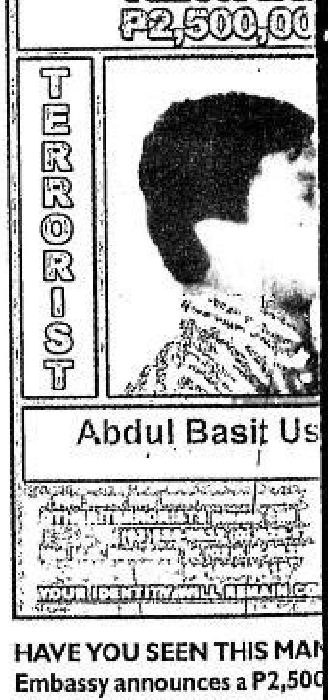
In an interview, embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said the second incident pertained to the blasts in the cities of Cotabato, General Santos and Kidapawan on Jan. 10, the eve of the 12th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations held in Cebu.

Authorities then maintained that the bombings were not related to the 16-nation meeting, although several Western countries, including the United States, had warned their citizens to avoid travel to Cebu in view of the alleged terrorist plot.

"It is time to bring this despicable terrorist to justice," the embassy said.

Huge US bounties

Two days after the triple bombings on Jan. 10, Philippine officials tagged Usman as their prime suspect, noting that he was an "expelled" commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front who was also charged with mounting bombing attacks in Davao City in 2003. The MILF denies Usman was a member.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN Embassy announces a P2,500
($50,000) reward leading to
of Usman, allegedly linked to
Islamiyah and responsible fo
bombs attacks in Mindanao.

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TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

AN EXCUSE TO LIGHT UP in Baguio City when Tuesday's temperatures register at levels not seen since 2004.

VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

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er in the archipelago is the cold front.

The interaction of the northeast monsoon, locally known as *hanging amihan*, and the cold front also brings rains in the eastern side of the islands.

"Right now, the rains continue to pour over eastern Visayas and eastern Mindanao," Cruz said.

"There is not much rain over eastern Luzon because the cold front has gone down toward the equator over the Visayas and Mindanao," he added.

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your own region what your exposure will be, and making sure you have ways to deal with it," he said.

On the positive side, Pearman said there was an enormous amount the international community could do to avert climate change if swift action was taken.

"The projections in the report that comes out this week are based on the assumption that we are slow to respond and that things continue more or less as they have in the past," he said.

In the past year, international concern over what to do about global warming has grown along with concrete signs of climate change. Even so political leaders are still groping for ways to tackle the phenomenon. Europe has adopted a program that caps the amount of emissions from industrial plants.

But the world's largest emitter, the United States, still is debating whether to adopt a similar policy, while developing countries, like China, are resisting caps on the ground that the industrialized countries contributed about 75 percent of the current volume of greenhouse gases and should make the deepest cuts.

Reports from AFP, Reuters and NYT

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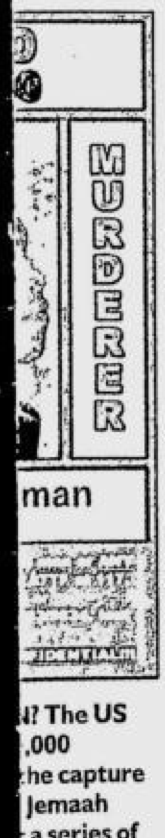

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The United States had promised a reward of up to $5 million each for Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, who was slain in a clash last September in Jolo, and his presumed successor, Abu Sulaiman, killed in Jolo this month.

Usman has carried out bombings with Abu Sayyaf bandits in the past, according to police Chief Supt. German Doria.

Police captured Usman in 2002 for a bomb attack that killed 15 people and wounded 100 others in the southern port city of General Santos, but he escaped from jail, Doria said.

Prosecutor Al Calica said Usman, a bomb-making expert, had been implicated in other bomb attacks in Mindanao in recent years.

Indonesian terror suspects

Two top Indonesian terror suspects wanted by Washington, Dulmatin and Umar Patek, and several MILF commanders were charged with Usman in the two bombings, which the military said may have been carried out to distract troops waging a massive US-backed offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah on Jolo.

Dulmatin and Patek, among the alleged masterminds of the Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people in 2002, are among the key targets of the Jolo offensives.

Usman allegedly provided security to Dulmatin and Patek when they were fleeing from troops in Central Mindanao last year.

With a report from AP

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John Paul E. Llorente
Sanville Subd., Quezon City
Howard Lu
Paco, Manila
Enfrosina Melendro
Sta. Mesa, Manila

LUZON
Ligaya Cardinal
Bolinao, Pangasinan
Ruben Elangos
Alfonso, Cavite
Benjamin R. Marquez
Muntinlupa City
Anselma Pangilinan
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Alberto S. Zurbano
Silang, Cavite

VIS-MIN
Jerywil P. Canit
San Roque Liloy, Zamboanga Del Norte
Demenilo E. Gose
Maralag Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur
Janet T. Leong
Bacolod City
Teresita Naraga
Unidos Plaridel, Misamis Occidental
Marigene C. Soriano
Dipolog City, Zamboanga Del Norte

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Novaliches, Quezon City
Rosalinda R. Fronda
Mandaluyong City
Romeo Fuentes
Quezon City
Leonardo A. Gonzalez
Valenzuela City
Nerwin M. Liacob
Binangonan, Rizal
Rufino Eric V. Sion, Jr.
Talayan, Quezon City
Bernardo Madrigal, Sr.
Sta. Ana, Manila
Janelle P. Ramos
Quezon City
Olive S. Ronquillo
Caloocan City
Alicia Sebastian
New Manila, Quezon City
Reynaldo Villanueva, Jr.
Santolan, Pasig City

LUZON
Gloria B. Alegre
Bani, Pangasinan
Romulo Caesar C. Aquino III
Guimba, Nueva Ecija
Leilanie Buguina
San Mariano, Isabela
Leonila Catabay
Bolinao, Pangasinan
Ma. Conception O. Dasig
Alicia, Isabela
Mark Lester De Azer
Silang, Cavite
Florencio G. Duco
Burgos, Isabela
Eloiza Fernandez
Calamba City, Laguna
Charlie D. Galapon
Guimba, Nueva Ecija
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Calamba City, Laguna
Joey Pacites
Bolinao, Pangasinan
Marlon L. Yap
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VIS-MIN
Melchor Aducal
Mabinuligan, Bacolod City
Jose Adam V. Caylan
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Jocelyn B. Jainar
Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay
Lawrence B. Jainar
Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay
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Miputak, Dipolog City
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OPINION

Solidarity

EDITORIAL

GAWAD KALINGA, WHOSE FOUNDER TONY Meloto our editors picked as Filipino of the Year, is a revolutionary movement because it's subversive of the political status quo, though not in the sense revolution or revolutionary causes are often articulated. In certain things, Gawad Kalinga is most certainly not revolutionary. It does not question either capitalism or private property, neither the idea of wealth nor a central role for religion in society; in all these things it's mainstream, if not conservative.

But Gawad Kalinga, as our article on Meloto pointed out, offers the surest prospect for reforms in a generation—and firmly outside the political arena, which sets it apart from previous middle-class efforts at social change. This doesn't mean, however, that it can be insulated from politics. What is inevitable is that Gawad Kalinga will face a challenge—even attempts at subversion—from mainstream politicians and those from the Left who play a political role. Precisely because of the revolutionary nature of its efforts.

Every time a Gawad Kalinga home is built, a direct challenge is issued to the usual political players. To the Right, its peacefulness of purpose and sense of social solidarity disprove the notion that guns are the best guarantor of social stability. To the traditional political class, it shows the extent to which government and officials are lagging in attending to basic needs. To the Left, it disproves the inevitability of class struggle, or the effectiveness of armed revolution.

The Gawad Kalinga mantra—"No more slums; no more violence; no more poverty"—is a challenge to all those who thought they had the answers to these problems. Development doesn't have to wait for impersonal economic forces to have trickle-down effects. The middle and upper classes actually rolling up their sleeves, building communities in areas they formerly feared or shunned, does more to restore a sense of common purpose than any political campaign. Helping reduce poverty breaks the cycle of despair and dependence that has forced even the well-intentioned among our leaders to surrender to the corrosive effects of patronage politics.

Which means that those who can't abide any other way but their way, whether it's the national security state or a national democratic, and socialist, order, or the gangster-minded politician with no ideology whatsoever, will find Gawad Kalinga and its communities a pain in the neck and an eventual threat to leadership by impunity.

The question that's often been asked is, "where have the middle forces gone since Edsa II?" For 20 years, the middle class had played a prominent role in government and politics. Since the 2004 elections, they've seemingly been absent from the scene. The usual reasons given for this are disillusionment and a decimated community.

Disillusionment came quickest and hardest after Edsa II, when the first few weeks of the new administration immediately became mired in scandal. It threatened to turn to cynicism by 2004, when the middle forces found themselves caught between a nauseating political pragmatism on the part of the administration, and a frightening populism on the part of the opposition.

Decimation also hampered the middle: a country being swamped in poverty hardly seemed able to either create a new middle class, much less maintain the existing one. And so, they fled, and continue to do so.

Gawad Kalinga has begun to stem this tide. At the very least, it offers hope that previously helter-skelter efforts at reform need not wait for a political messiah or a bloody revolution. But when a mayor comes knocking at the door, demanding a vote or offering bribes for it; when soldiers confuse community building with subversion; when revolutionaries start preaching reform must come out of the barrel of a gun, what will Gawad Kalinga do?

The decade in which it has gathered steam and begun to make an enduring mark was a grace period. It won't last. And for every community that stands on self-respecting feet, thanks to its efforts, the challenge must be confronted: Now that the poor have homes, and have organized themselves, what next? Can they afford to stand aside and let their work be swamped by those who have no incentive to respect it?

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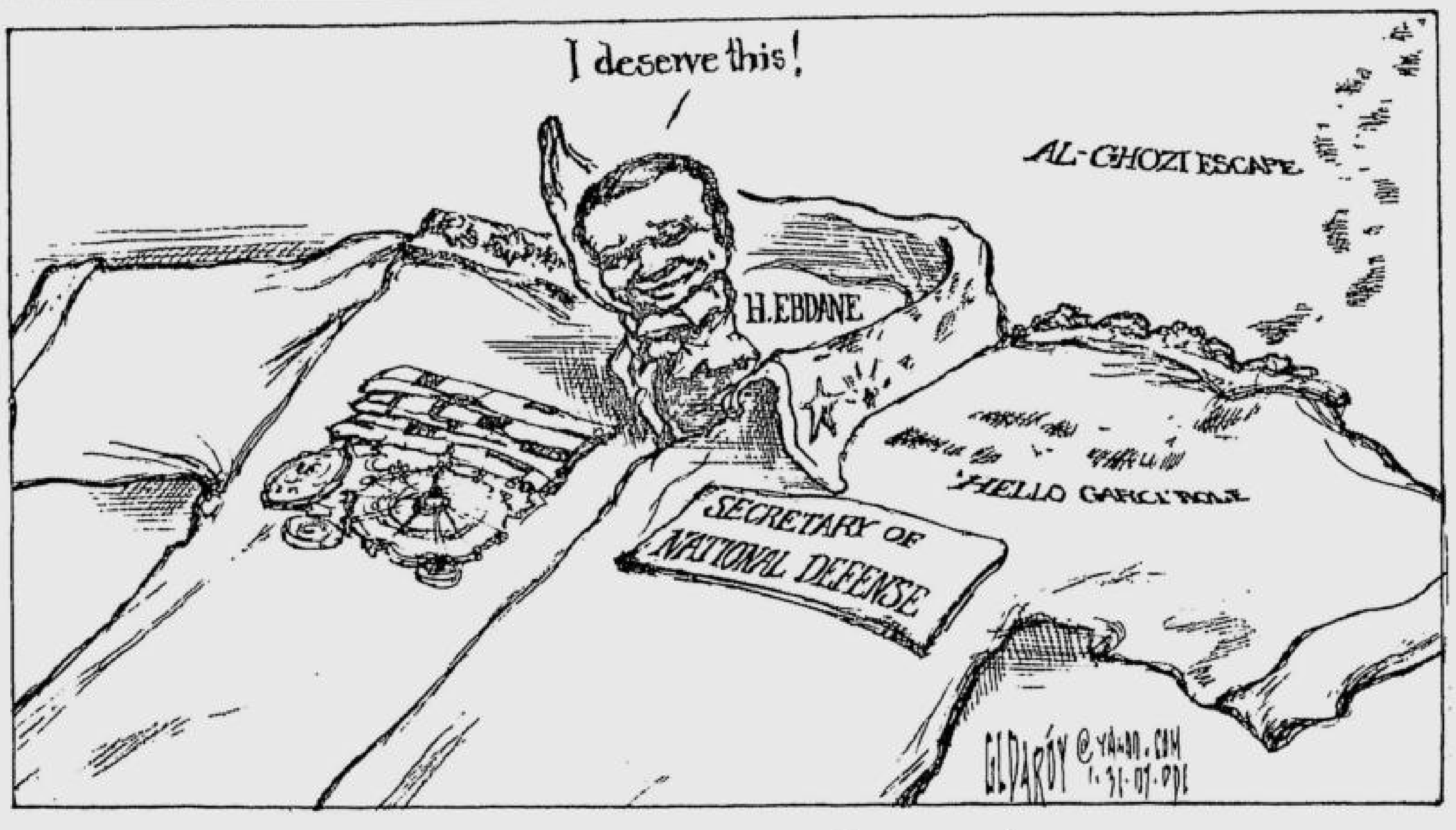

Water, water everywhere, but…

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ISN'T IT IRONIC AND PARADOXICAL THAT the Philippines, an archipelago surrounded by water, is running out of water, as Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes warned the other day? Great swaths of the Philippines are flooded, sometimes to rooftop levels, every rainy season (people actually drown in those floods), but we are always short of water when summer comes. Where does all the excess water go? And what are we doing to save that water?

Alas, the Philippines, with all the alleged "bright boys" now offering themselves to the voters, has no comprehensive plan to develop and save water supplies all these years. All we have done through the years was dam more rivers and drill more wells in the ground. There has been no effort to save water so that the existing water supplies will last longer.

We are very wasteful in the use of fresh water. Do you know that the water used in washing one car in a commercial car wash with its pressurized hose would be enough to supply the water needs of 10 households in one day? Do you know that a housemaid or houseboy watering the lawn and garden in the morning or afternoon uses three times what the household uses in one day? And do you know that two-thirds of the water consumed by the average household is used only to flush the toilet? In other words, only one-third of the water consumption of a family is used to cook, wash and drink.

And what the government has done, according to Reyes, who was one of the panelists at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday (the other was senatorial candidate Sonia Roco), to increase water supplies was, as earlier stated, dam more rivers and drill more wells. New subdivisions drill wells to supply their buyers with fresh water. Homeowners building homes without water connections from the developer drill wells routinely as though the water underground is inexhaustible.

But underground water is finite. Like the water in any well, it is exhausted when you pump out too much from it. The water is usually replenished by rainwater. But when not enough rainwater seeps down to the aquifer because the surface is covered with too much concrete and asphalt, or when much of it flows down to low areas because there are no tree roots to hold it, or when humans pump out more water than seeps down, the water is exhausted, and the aquifer, which is like a big underground cave, lies empty.

When this happens, it gives saltwater from the sea, especially in coastal areas, or brackish water in areas near rivers, opportunities to seep in and occupy the aquifer. Then the next time you pump out water from your well, the water is salty or brackish.

That is why so many wells are no longer working. That is why the huge wells of subdivisions can no longer supply their residents with enough fresh water. You see that in the many subdivisions in Parañaque and Las Piñas now suffering from water shortage.

Reyes said that while there was an increase in the country's overall supply of fresh water, per capita coverage actually decreased because of population increase. A study made by the DENR estimated that "only 1,907 cubic meters of fresh water are available to each Filipino a year," the lowest among Southeast Asian countries where fresh water is available.

"The uncoordinated and uncontrolled exploitation of our country's water resources has had a major impact on the availability of clean and safe water at present, and has already jeopardized the supply of this resource for future generations," Reyes said.

This shortage is now felt in urban areas like Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, Bacolod, Baguio, and, to a lesser extent, in other cities as well. In the countryside, the shortage is even more acute as there is less and less water for irrigation. Irrigation of farms account for 70 percent of all water use, according to Ramon B. Alikpala, executive director of the National Water Resources Board. And because drainage flows from agricultural lands are polluted by pesticides, "less fresh water is available for drinking and industrial use," he added.

We have to admit, Reyes said, that "there were shortcomings in the current management of the country's water resources." The focus was too much on developing new sources of water supply rather than managing existing ones better. There is still no preparation, for example, in recycling used water, a conservation technique already being used by many cities. There is not even any attempt to study how to save the water that regularly flood Metro Manila and Central Luzon for future use.

Right now, the only plan that the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has to solve the water shortage in Metro Manila is to pump water from Laguna Lake and Taal Lake. When the supply is exhausted, it plans to build the Laiban Dam which would cost billions of pesos, which money we don't have because the money collected from higher and new taxes are being spent for politics.

Yet we are surrounded by an inexhaustible supply of cheap water. The catch is that it is salty. But there are already desalination plants that convert seawater into fresh water. The cost, however, is prohibitive. But we will be forced to bite that if we do not conserve our remaining sources of fresh water.

Listen to Reyes. He is the only environment secretary who ever talked sense.

(To be continued)

Psychic twins

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT WAS A BREATHTAKING PIECE OF DEMagoguery George W. Bush unleashed upon the Filipinos, if not the world, last weekend. He called up his equally miserable and alienated counterpart in that miserable and alienated part of the world called the Philippines to thank her for her support in fighting terrorism.

We know at least that that phone call really took place. We know that not because GMA's voice, if not Bush's, is unmistakable, something we heard in another phone conversation some time ago. We know that because an American official confirmed the fact. This government being what it is, it is not beyond inventing it (certainly it has not been loath to embellish it). Bush called up GMA in Davos at 4 p.m. last Friday to congratulate her for her "fantastic leadership" in fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

That is all very nice, except for one thing: Nobody believes Bush is fighting terrorism. Indeed, nobody believes Bush, period. Still, indeed, nobody believes GMA, either.

Of course, Bush will praise GMA for being at his corner at this time. Nobody else is. Not the United Nations, and not the usual suspects, which are America's traditional allies, except the Philippines, probably not even the government he installed in Iraq after invading it on the basis of an outright and outrageous lie. Bush's latest decision to escalate US troop deployment in Iraq has met only worldwide condemnation, even from timid Japan. Japan's foreign minister said invading Iraq on the notion that it had weapons of mass destruction was a fatal mistake, and sending more troops to Iraq on the notion it will improve the situation there is an even bigger mistake.

There is, in fact, a precedent for Bush calling up GMA to congratulate her for being a passionate crusader against terror. That was George Bush Sr., who was still Ronald Reagan's vice president at the time, while on a visit here toasting Ferdinand Marcos for the latter's passionate adherence to democracy. Like father, like son.

But what can one say at that spectacle of Bush Jr. coddling GMA, or the other way around? They deserve each other!

They do quite incidentally in more ways than one. Bush's congratulatory phone call last Friday drove home one awesome point to me with the force of Zen enlightenment. That is, that they are uncanny political psychic twins.

Both are the scions of presidents who did not particularly distinguish themselves and ended up being battered by flamboyant rivals in elections. Bush the elder lost to Bill Clinton, who sneered at him with the line, "It's the economy, stupid." Diosdado Macapagal lost to Marcos who sneered at him with the line, "*Alis dyan.*" Both scions carried a huge chip on their shoulders. Both got to have the hots for absolute power.

Both cheated in elections to become president. Bush ripped off Al Gore in Florida, with no small aid from his brother Jeb, who orchestrated the cheating, not least by wrongly listing large numbers of blacks and Democrats as "felons" who were ineligible to vote. Jeb also fought off a recount that would have shown Gore ahead.

GMA, well, ask Garci, though all you will get are lies. But ask him anyway if only to elevate his blood pressure to lethal levels.

America lost more, of course, not just in having a thug in the White House but in not having an enlightened being in the form of Gore in it. But, well, FPJ doesn't loom badly from hindsight: He seemed at least to have been possessed of epic decency in contrast to the epic indecency of the one currently occupying Malacañang.

Both GMA and Bush are breathtakingly mediocre individuals whose capacity for evil their respective constituents completely underestimated. Bush was—and is—a bumbling idiot who bumblingly idiotically turned the world into a quagmire, trashing the UN, trashing age-old protocols about international relationships, and trashing the foundations of peace his predecessors spent their lives to build. GMA was just hanging on by the coattails of Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin until she was thrust to power. And then she screwed them, too, turning this country into a quagmire, trashing the presidency, trashing democracy and trashing every hallowed tradition of freedom her predecessors spent their lives to build.

Both are God's—or the devil's—gift to lying. Bush invaded Iraq claiming it had weapons of mass destruction. GMA invaded the presidency claiming votes of massive invention. Well, she said she would not run to begin with.

Both have completely terrorized their countries—in Bush's case apart from the world. Bush unleashed a new McCarthyism upon the United States, witch-hunting terrorists who were people who looked suspiciously like Arabs or wore beards, luxurious or otherwise, demanding levels of patriotism known previously only to Joseph McCarthy and sundry jingoists. "You are either for me or against me," he said after 9/11, which, like I said earlier, made the choice extremely easy. Later, one magnificent philosopher-cum-sage-cum-student of glorious cultural learnings would come to show him up. His name was Borat.

GMA, well, look at the characters around her: Ronnie Puno, Raul Gonzalez, the Garci generals, the Prosperos and Katzenjammer Kids from Bicol of Congress, and Mr. Libel Suit himself. And count the number of dead over the last couple of years.

Both have become the most hated persons on the planet. Both, like Medusa, have caused people to die simply by gazing at them, which in these media-fed times is virtually inescapable. Both have become the Number One (and Two) recruiters of al-Qaida.

Ah, but there's the rub. The Americans have already rejected Bush, turning him into a Barely Smoldering, Never Mind Burning, Bush for the remainder of his second term. When will we do the same for someone who never won it?

The Davos glow

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ON HER ARRIVAL LAST SUNDAY FROM THE five-day World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, President Macapagal-Arroyo reported that she was feted by world business leaders at the "most high-powered business meeting" of the forum in recognition of the "turnaround" of the Philippine economy.

She said WEF officials told her that among all the business dinners and luncheons at the forum, the dinner given in her honor by the WEF was the biggest during the conference and "had the best quality of attendance because of the presence of so many chief executives from very large corporations." She mentioned the attendance of the CEOs of a number of leading global corporations, including Coca-Cola, Nestlé SA, IBM Corp., Merrill Lynch, AIG, Citibank, Royal Dutch Shell, PepsiCo, Convergys, Deutsche Bank as well as representatives of the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral lending institutions.

She attributed the good attendance partly to the Philippine economic turnaround, citing such indicators as the "sterling" performance of the Philippine stock market, lower risk premiums on Philippine debt papers and successful efforts to keep the budget deficit in check. From these indicators, she forecast a 5.7 percent growth in gross domestic product this year. "There was great interest in the Philippines," she said. "We talked about a broad range of topics. We talked about how we've been able to turn around the economy ... and I told them about economic reforms."

In an interview with Reuters on Saturday in Davos, she predicted the economy to grow about 6 percent this year, from 5 5. percent in 2006 and 5 percent in 2005—a far cry from the 7 to 10 percent growth of the more dynamic Asian economies, such as China, India and Vietnam. She hoped the predicted growth would expand the economy and create enough jobs at home to stop the exodus of unemployed Filipinos seeking jobs overseas.

Blame this heady estimates on the rarified atmosphere of Davos nestled on the snow-blanketed Alps. The forum, whose motto is "Improving the state of the world," brought together in splendid isolation from the rest of humanity 2,400 political, economic and business leaders from all parts of the globe, including 24 heads of state, 85 cabinet ministers, religious and media leaders and heads of high-profile nongovernment organizations. For five days, this exclusive group of the world's elite, dine, talk, debate, make deals and establish networks in the effort to solve global problems. The latest conference program listed 42 issues, discussed in depth in essays that participants don't have time to read, and their staff bring home in their luggage as archival material.

In this stratospheric atmosphere, it is hard for the participants, not excluding our own President Arroyo, not to be carried away by the camaraderie of elites rubbing elbows with one another and not to have distorted perspectives and priorities. Ms Arroyo's concerns—the Philippine economy and the integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—were not mainstream issues on the agenda. Thus, when she returned, she had nothing more remarkable to report than the fact that she was guest of honor at the "best attended dinner" of Davos 2007.

Her arrival report did not reflect two of the most important issues of Davos. A 2005 survey of participants of WEF 2007 found that 65 percent think that the next generation will live in a more economically prosperous world. Thirty-one percent of participants put economic growth on top of their concerns, followed by 17 percent who chose closing the gap between the rich and the poor, and 14 percent who gave priority to protecting the environment.

While there was more optimism about economic growth among the participants, the most significant change on the 2007 agenda was that the WEF Voice of Leaders Survey found the number of leaders who ranked environmental protection as a priority has more than doubled. The survey indicated that as many as one in every five participants believed that the leaders should concentrate on protecting the environment, compared with just 9 percent last year.

When hundreds of participants voted on what the world's most pressing issues were, BBC News reported, a large majority said "climate change" but also found that the world was not ready to tackle it.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair told the forum a major breakthrough on long-term climate change goals could be close. He said this was possible because of a quantum shift in public attitudes in the United States. He said Germany's presidency of G-8 countries offered an opportunity for a new international agreement before the Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012.

Former US Vice President Al Gore's film, "An Inconvenient Truth," is believed to have influenced the mood change toward environmental protection and global warming. "There is a spirit of enthusiasm across the business community, a sea change on green issues," says Daniel Esty, director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy.

The WEF has always been about free market economics, but more businessmen agree with Esty when he said, "We have environment as a market failure." But Utz Claassen, who runs a German power company, said, "Can markets save the planet? No! Can governments save it? Definitely not!" But he warned that if we fail, "climate change will kill us all."

Environment Minister David Miliband of the United Kingdom calls global warming a market failure and a "political failure."

This priority is not shared by President Arroyo. It was lost in the glow of her euphoric arrival speech from Davos.

Loyalties, liberties

AT FIRST GLANCE, THE STORY IN LAST SATURDAY'S South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong newspaper, seemed to be about another Filipino domestic helper who had gotten into trouble. There was a photograph of the family who had hired her, and I presumed they were Hong Kong residents.

But it turned out to be the story of Erma Martinez, a Filipina maid who had worked in Wisconsin, USA, for a Filipino couple, Jefferson and Elnora Calimlim, both physicians. The catch here was that for 20 years, Martinez remained an illegal immigrant, paid $150 a month for the first 10 years and eventually $400 a month. The Calimlims were convicted for forced labor and meted out four-year jail sentences, a move that has sparked negative reactions from Filipinos in the United States, some of whom are saying this was an example of Americans not understanding Filipino culture, that Martinez was ungrateful, if not out to exploit the Calimlims.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I wonder. This may be a story of a Filipina maid in the United States, but it's one that's played many times over in the Philippines. And unless there's extreme physical violence and abuse involved, no one ever makes a fuss. So is this Filipino culture? You decide.

Special favor

In 1985, the Calimlims, both physicians, were struggling with raising three children and Elnora's parents thought they'd help by recruiting a maid for them. They found Martinez, who was then only 20 years old and from an impoverished family in Camarines Sur, and got her a US visa on the pretext that she needed medical treatment.

Martinez agreed to work for the Calimlims for five years. She adjusted quickly, maintaining the six-bedroom, $1.2 million home. She cooked, did laundry, waxed the car, even polished medical equipment. The visa expired and Martinez became, in American immigration jargon, an "illegal alien." Her passport remained with her employers, presumably expiring even as she remained hopeful that they'd help her get a green card.

But early enough, Martinez noticed that her employers kept her hidden. When there were parties, she would be kept in her basement bedroom. At church, she sat in a pew away from the family and at home, she was instructed to answer the phone only after 10 rings, which meant it was her employers calling. She did the grocery list, but the Calimlim children would do the purchasing. Her employers explained that this was to keep her from being deported, as her stay in the United States was illegal.

As with so many Filipino overseas workers, Martinez's family back home became very dependent on her. She paid for her siblings' tuition, her parents' medical care and medicine, land, a carabao, a tractor, weddings, funerals and gifts. She never visited home in those 20 years, missing births of siblings and deaths of grandparents.

Eventually, Martinez's plight was uncovered by Sherry Bantug, the Filipino-American wife of one of the Calimlim sons. Bantug had first been told that Martinez was a visiting "*tita*" (auntie) but she began to wonder why this relative visited so often, until she was finally told the truth. She married the Calimlim son, and had to insist, over the elder Calimlims' objections, that Martinez be allowed at the reception. After the marriage ended in divorce, Bantug called US Immigration to report Martinez's detention and federal agents finally searched the house in September 2004. They found Martinez hiding in a closet.

At the trial, Filipino-Americans showed up to support the Calimlims, arguing that the couple had done Martinez a big favor, that this was a tradition in the Philippines. One of those interviewed for the article said that if they brought a maid over from the Philippines, they'd have paid what the Calimlims were giving Martinez. After the couple was found guilty, about 100 Filipino-Americans signed a letter asking for leniency. The couple was sentenced in November last year.

Martinez has since been granted a US visa and will be eligible for permanent residence in three years. She works at a cosmetics store in Chicago. She's eligible for back wages amounting to $704,635.

According to the South China Morning Post, she still loves the Calimlims and that "she never wished for prison, deportation or the stress the case has caused them." All she wanted, she said, was her freedom.

Back in P.I.

I wouldn't be surprised if many Filipinos—in the States and here in the "P.I." (that's for Philippine Islands, the way many Filipino-Americans refer to the Philippines)—would say that American immigration, and the district judge handling the case, were unfair, that they didn't understand our culture, or maybe even that they were discriminating against Filipinos.

I can hear arguments that Martinez would never be able to earn $400 a month here in the P.I. Never mind that the federal minimum wage until recently was $5.15 an hour (yes, an hour). After all, she was getting free board and lodging. After all, back in the P.I. the minimum daily wage in Metro Manila is P350, but household helpers get on average P2,000 a month because they get free board and lodging. The Philippine Congress has a pending bill to raise this minimum to P3,000 a month but I've heard people opposing that. Why, they say, that will spoil the maids rotten.

Martinez had no day off, but neither do most helpers back in the P.I. Martinez said the Calimlims denied her medical and dental care, but she wouldn't have gotten such benefits either in the P.I.

So the Calimlims' defenders are in a way right: this is Filipino culture and the Americans don't understand us. When Filipino-Americans talk about missing home, it's often said, in the same breath, a matter of missing maids. Why, back home, you can have all the household help you want cheap.

I can hear people arguing that Martinez should have more *utang na loob* (gratitude) for the Calimlims. After all, they did give her Christmas presents and took her along on family vacations. Maybe the Filipino couple was occasionally unkind, but what would life have been like for Martinez back home? Is there liberty in poverty?

Filipinos complain that it's hard to find good help these days. Too much talk about rights and freedom. If overseas Filipinos want to emulate Martinez, it should be the way she kept silent for 20 years. She was 20 when she left the P.I. and a boyfriend whom she never saw again. She told Bantug how she had hoped, at one time, to have children of her own but may now have missed the opportunity.

The 20 years Martinez was in Wisconsin, she wasn't kept under lock and key. She could have taken off any time, but she didn't. That's loyalty, and that's what's so disturbing about this whole saga.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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God's justice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S THE FINAL PART OF THE ARTICLE, written by Haydee Ann Montoya, which I began to reprint in this space yesterday. In that part of the article, Haydee wrote of the crime perpetrated against her sister and her nieces by her sister's husband and the girls' father. Driven to jealousy by what appears to be an errant text message, the husband shot Haydee's sister through the hips, one of his daughters through the head resulting in the girl's death, and another daughter through the hand. Making their ordeal doubly harrowing was that the shooting took place over the holidays, necessitating their spending Christmas and New Year in the hospital, watching over the victims.

The husband/assailant has yet to be arrested and, worse, he and his family have been spreading rumors about Haydee's sister's infidelity and how this somehow "justifies" the crime.

In this second part of her article, Haydee writes of her and her family's frustration at the seeming indifference of authorities to her sister's and nieces' plight, and the fear and anger they labor under in the face of the husband's family's influence and the social support they seem to be enjoying within the community.

Here's the concluding portion of Haydee's article. I have edited this and the previous portion only for brevity and clarity. My gratitude goes to Haydee and the Montoya family for trusting me with the story. I can only hope that by baring their souls to the public, they can somehow find justice for her sister and nieces.

And let me add my voice to Haydee's in her hope for "life free from violence" not just for her sister but for all women, wherever we are.

* * *

MY brother-in-law has not been apprehended by the authorities due to the absence of a warrant of arrest which should emanate from the court. He still moves around, asking our relatives to persuade my sister to sign an affidavit of desistance.

We have been receiving threats that if we pursue the case, a "*redo*" (family feud) would ensue. This is an age-old practice which involves so much bloodshed and killings between warring families. Our Christian family would not resort to this because we believe in the law of God and in the law of the Philippines.

I find it difficult to comprehend why we, of all families, should go through this problem during the season of peace, love and giving.

I hurt for my parents who loved each other faithfully for 39 years, doing hard, earnest and honest work to give us comfortable lives, only to see one of their children shot senselessly. They have been through a lot fighting for my sister's life in many a battle. My sister more than once faced death because of her heart ailment, and then once again confronted it due to matters of the heart.

I feel for my sister who brought forth four beautiful children to share with all of us, only to see one leave too soon because of the rashness of the one who had been instrumental in bringing the little angel into this world. It hurts to see my precious sister suffer so much, emotionally and physically. We only had one reason to be happy amid this tragedy. That is, my sister escaped yet another death. We know that part of her died with the death of her daughter, but we are happy that the rest of her is still alive. I admire her because even if her heart and body are not so strong, she struggled to live like a fit person just to see her little angels through.

* * *

I ASKED God what message He wants to impart to our family but until now, it is all hazy. I can only infer that if this is how He wants to break the relationship of my sister and my brother-in-law, so be it. It may seem so very sickening that it had cost the life of an innocent beautiful girl and the infliction of injuries on my sister and another daughter, but we can only say that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, nor His ways our ways. I can only gather that this is His way of breaking the bond that subjected my sister to several threats, abuses and beatings, with their very own children as witnesses.

How deeply these circumstances have affected my remaining nephew and nieces' subconscious minds, nobody knows until they grow up and will have families of their own. I feel bad that these little ones will have to suffer the repercussions and pain of having a broken family, but it is better than seeing their mother and themselves living in fear and constantly being subjected to abuse. I pray that they are going to be the last victims of domestic violence and abuse.

We are still filing a case against my brother-in-law. We are not certain if truth will prevail and justice will tip in favor of our family knowing the way things are in Central Mindanao. This is the painful reality that our family will have to deal with.

* * *

WE cannot live in fear for the rest of our lives. If this country cannot serve justice well and fast, God has His own way of doing things. With our God, all things will be taken care of. He will for sure do justly to His son, my brother-in-law.

Amid all uncertainties and pain, I am very inspired that our family is getting support from relatives, friends and strangers in the form of prayers and sympathy. We know that they are on our side and God is taking care of us. We are drawing strength from that. We have been praying for justice and the safety of everyone and we can only say now that we have won through prayers and the support of friends, relatives and kind-hearted strangers. It is always touching to have the support and sympathy of these people. Maybe someday, I can thank them personally.

Pride, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony, lust—the seven deadly sins. Add the green eye of jealousy. Let there be none in any home.

A blow-by-blow account of the Cavite mutiny

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOME YEARS BACK WHEN ERMITA WAS STILL a happy hunting ground for antiques, my favorite dealer, Nora Ignacio, showed me an ancient bronze cannon. It was small and heavy and had markings that would probably allow a historian to trace the foundry of its origin and the exact date, or year, of its manufacture. Cannons were quite common, especially *lantakas* from the South, but Spanish cannons were quite sought-after. What can you do with an old cannon? Some collectors use them as accent pieces in their homes. One even mounted a long cannon in his garden where it functioned as a bench, but for most, these were relics of the colonial past to be preserved. Since most cannons were, like manhole covers, melted into scrap metal, when something came along it was always worth a second look.

Despite her 40 years in the business, Ignacio was not alert to interesting things, often discovering later, when the customer had paid cheap, why a certain piece was valuable in either a monetary or historical way. This was what made a trip to her shop a treat. The cannon she showed me that day was clearly marked "Rl Al Cte" in a crude script. She asked what it meant and even suggested some ridiculous religious meaning that I cannot recall now. She quoted a price, but when I told her the mysterious letters were the abbreviated form of "Real Arsenal de Cavite," she jacked up the price by 40 percent. When I said it was probably one of the cannons that saw action in the Cavite Mutiny of 1872 that led to the martyrdom of Gomburza, the price increased 100 percent.

I remembered this cannon while going over the "Fr. Jose Burgos: A documentary history" by the erudite historian John Schumacher, SJ. In the days before CNN or the BBC, the closest we could get to a blow-by-blow account was through a series of telegrams sent from Cavite to the governor-general in Malacañang. The copy book survives and gives us a 24-hour rundown:

"21 January 1872 at 8:05 a.m. Uprising in Fort San Felipe and among the marine detachment. Firing all night; some officers and soldiers wounded. Need reinforcements urgently. Situation in arsenal unknown. I have no artillery. Note: the lookout of Cavite cannot see because of the haze.

"21 January 1872 at 8:20 a.m. The schooner Santa Filomena just set out, now that it is 5 p.m.

"21 January 1872 at 11:00 a.m. Safely arrived and disembarked. The rebels, numbering 200, from the artillery battalion, the marine detachment, and the arsenal, control the fort and much of the arsenal. The [?] is intact, defending Spain with complete loyalty. They are surrounded; I am reinforcing the positions and will report subsequent operations. The comandante needs meat since everyone has fled. There are some wounded and some 16 dead; the majority...

"21 January 1872 at 11:07 a.m. A gunboat is seen, apparently firing in the direction of Fort Guadalupe.

"21 January 1872 at 12:50 p.m. The three-masted gunboat is firing, and the fire is being returned by Fort San Felipe.

"21 January 1872 at 1:00 p.m. The steam vessel Manila is leaving Cavite for here.

"21 January 1872 at 1:29 p.m. Safe disembarkation; continued resistance from the Arsenal; waiting for infantry operations.

"21 January 1872 at 2:05 p.m. The three-masted gunboat has cast anchor in Canacao and number 9 is anchored outside the Arsenal. The two longboats are hidden inside the Arsenal.

"21 January 1872 at 2:10 pm. At 2:10 there is musketry fire, which is being answered by some musket shots, apparently between the rampart and the barracks of number 7. The steam vessel which left Manila is entering Cavite at 2:25.

"21 January 1872 at 3:05 p.m. Musketry fire continues to be observed in the plaza of the fort of Cavite and inside the arsenal.

"21 January 1872 at 4:21 p.m. The rebels are beginning to flee; between 7 and 12 have been killed.

"21 January 1872 at 5:10 p.m. The steam vessel Manila has cast anchor, the Isabel I is en route to this river. Musket fire continues in the arsenal of Cavite.

"21 January 1872 at 5:04 (?). The steam-vessel Isabel I changed direction and turned to the arsenal. At 5:25 they fired two cannon shots into the fort, apparently against barracks of number 7. No musket fire can be perceived. Gunboat number 9 fired a cannon shot against the fort at 5:48. The three-masted gunboat fired another cannon shot.

"22 January 1872 at 6:37 a.m. The northeast portion of the wall of the Fort of Cavite is seen to be destroyed. There is no firing.

"22 January 1872 at 7:38 a.m. At 6:00 a.m. I ordered two batteries to begin firing in support of the simultaneous assault which I had the three columns make. At 7:00 a.m. the national flag flies over the royal fort of San Felipe, accompanied by shouts of 'Viva España!' Detailed report in writing by gunboat.

"22 January 1872 at 9:49 a.m. Take into custody Father Burgos, rector of San Pedro for the good of the service.

"22 January 1872 at 10:00 a.m. Take into custody Father Burgos, rector of San Pedro.

"22 January 1872 at 10:25 ---- for the good of the service.

"22 January 1872 at 11:08 a.m. At 11:00 I leave for the capital with regiments number 1 and 2.

"22 January 1872 at 11:21 a.m. The commanding general is leaving with regiments number 1 and 2."

The romance of historical documents is that you need some imagination to make the events come alive. Today we have TV and digital cameras everywhere, but the critical task of the historian remains.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Seniors entitled to 20 percent discount even using credit cards

I AM RESPONDING TO CARLOS Manalastas' letter (PDI, 1/24/07) concerning the use of credit cards in purchases made under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003 (RA 9257). As the main author of the law and chair of the Senate committee on social justice, welfare and rural development in the 12th Congress, I would like to assure Manalastas that senior citizens can avail themselves of the 20 percent discount regardless of the manner of payment for the purchase of medicines.

RA 9257 provides, among others, that:

"Sec. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

"(a) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount x x x and purchase of medicines in all establishments for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens, x x x."

The only requirement Congress provided is that the purchase of medicines must be for the **exclusive use or enjoyment of the senior citizens.** The law does not distinguish whether or not the payment is on cash or credit card basis. In addition, the implementing rules and regulations for this law, Department of Health Administrative Order No. 177, series of 2004, make no distinction.

Clearly, the drugstores and big supermarkets referred to by Manalastas violated the law and may be penalized accordingly. Violation of this law is a criminal offense punishable with both a fine and imprisonment.

I suggest that Manalastas report this violation to the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (Osca), which is tasked to monitor compliance with the law, particularly the grant of discounts. The Osca has the duty to report to the city/municipal mayor the establishments found violating the law, as well as to assist senior citizens in filing complaints or charges against any establishment.

In areas without the Osca, senior citizens may directly report to the mayor who has jurisdiction over the establishment for possible cancellation or revocation of business permit, or to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution.

—VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO

Barred priest friend of poor

IT'S A DISGRACE THAT THE BUreau of Immigration barred Fr. Frank Nally's entry, and refuses to give the public the courtesy of an explanation. The Columban priest is a steadfast supporter of the poor and the oppressed, not a public order violator or a security threat.

I met him once at the Columban house in London, and I don't even know if he remembers me. He is someone to be admired and respected for his contributions to justice in the Philippines. It seems the Singapore syndrome has indeed reached the Philippines.

**—ERIC GUTIERREZ,
international policy coordinator,
ActionAid International,
Johannesburg, South Africa**

Pedicabs symbolize state of economy

THE LOWEST FORM OF PUBLIC transport is the pedicab. It flouts the laws of safe travel, comfort and functional economics; most of all, it shows our economy in dire straits. I have some observations and questions about the pedicabs in Binondo, Manila:

1. There are so many of them they have become a nuisance.

2. They don't have VIN plates or their drivers don't have IDs.

3. They don't project a pretty good image of our city.

4. They get towed by the local police only to see them back on the streets, again in operation, after being "cleared" by the barangay office.

5. Does City Hall know the legal implications of operating a pedicab or are Manila's elective officials just afraid of the repercussions if they get the ire of the drivers who are also voters?

6. Will an insurance company indemnify the family of a pedicab driver killed in a vehicular accident?

7. Pedicabs are starting to be motorized and shall soon become a bigger nuisance to the public.

8. The ones hardest hit by these pedicabs are the *kutseros*, who seldom claim damages when hit by these pedicabs. It is as if the *kutseros* are at the mercy of the pedicab drivers.

9. Pedicab drivers behave as if they don't care about traffic laws, about the presence of other vehicles and even about the safety of their passengers.

The MMDA has a mandate on traffic management. Can't it do something about this problem in Binondo? Or is it also afraid of the voters?

**—RAYMUND TUMAO,
judeanauto@yahoo.com**

Who are tax evaders?

THIS REFERS TO A NEWS ITEM IN THE Dec. 6, 2006 issue of the INQUIRER titled "BIR: Be wary of night-duty tax collectors." It was reported that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has charged me, a councilor of Sawang Calero town (Sawang Calero is a barangay in Cebu City) and my wife with tax evasion. As of this writing, we have not been notified of any charges filed against us by the BIR.

At any rate, if only to disabuse the public of any wrong impression that the report might have created, we categorically deny the allegation that we did not pay fully our VAT obligations as well as the taxes due on our incomes.

We believe that a person against whom we have filed various cases in court for issuing to us numerous bouncing checks fed the BIR false information to get even with us.

**—REYNALDO JOSE,
barangay councilor,
Barangay Sawang Calero,
Cebu City**

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GMA picks Bong Pineda wife over Lapid

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PRESIDENT MACApagal Arroyo's party declared the wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda as its official candidate for governor of Pampanga, her home province, amid last-minute attempts by Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid to persuade the suspected jueteng lord to stop his wife from running.

Senator Lapid, whose son Mark is running for reelection as governor, asked Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to help convince Pineda to stop his wife, Board Member Lilia Pineda, from running, two INQUIRER sources said.

One of the sources said the senator met with Singson last week to remove a major obstacle in the reelection bid of his son.

Senator Lapid, however, was not available for comment when the INQUIRER called on Tuesday, his aide said. He did not return a call at past 3 p.m.

Governor Lapid did not reply to calls or text messages either. His campaign manager, Fidel Arcenas, could not be reached, too, and might have changed his mobile phone number.

Friends

According to the other source, Senator Lapid sought Singson's help after presidential adviser for political affairs Gabriel Claudio failed to reconcile the governor and the 14 mayors supporting Lilia Pineda.

Singson has remained a friend and business associate of Bong Pineda even after Singson's disclosures triggered the "Juetengate scandal" that led to the ouster of their patron, then President Joseph Estrada, in January 2001.

Lilia Pineda said her husband had not been contacted by Singson as of Tuesday.

She said that even if Singson relayed the senator's request, she still would not back out from the gubernatorial race.

She looked bent as the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), Ms Arroyo's political party, on Tuesday declared her its official candidate for governor.

She said this was the first time she was running under a party. In her 19 years in public office, she said she had always run as an independent candidate.

Kampi, through its provincial chair, Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, also announced the fielding of Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao as Pineda's running mate.

Pelayo said Kampi chose the pair based on results of consultations with several sectors.

In a press conference, Lilia Pineda called her candidacy a "crusade for good governance" and a "fight by the Kapampangans for good changes."

'Good governance'

She said the young Lapid was "not ready to govern and all he wants to do is be popular by making movies."

Pressed by the INQUIRER if her husband would meddle in government affairs should she become governor, she said: "*Separado kami dun* (we have drawn the lines)."

Later in an interview, she said she would not allow him to dictate on her.

"I will follow a program of governance that prioritizes the poor, farming and business sector, health services, infrastructure," she said. "I have my own mind. I make my own decisions."

She hesitated at first to answer questions on the illegal numbers game that her husband supposedly operated in Luzon but she said, "There is no proof [to the allegations]."

Also in the press conference, Guiao read a statement saying he believed in the "sincerity and competence" of Lilia Pineda.

His reelection bid, Guiao said, was a way to "continue the fight against graft and corruption in all provincial undertakings, specifically, quarry revenues."

Antigraft

Guiao and several Kampi mayors are filing graft cases before the Ombudsman against the Lapids next week.

He said the cases stemmed from the Lapids' alleged stealing of taxes collected from Mt. Pinatubo's sand and their supposed "double collection" of payments for re-graveling projects in the province, he said.

The Lapids had denied several times that the family's wealth came from graft.

But Lilia Pineda and Guiao said they had pieces of evidence to strengthen the graft case against the Lapids.

Malacañang is reported to be wooing the elder Lapid to run for mayor of Makati City, to remove one opposition stalwart that has become a pain in the neck for the President, incumbent Mayor Jejomar Binay. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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Bituing Walang Ningning

BAGUIO residents are again fighting to keep billboards out of the summer capital, because of its impact on the skyline, so Mayor Reinaldo Bautista proposed replacing them with a single, centrally located LED board. But the outdoor advertising industry said this was a devolution from 21st century billboards projects such as a Baguio video screen, to the 20th century digital boards. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Baguio studies using electronic ad boards

BAGUIO CITY—THE 21ST-CENTURY billboards here will soon be replaced by light-emitted diodes (LEDs), a marvel of the previous century, to placate old timers and to submit to a new billboard policy imposed by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the LED boards would be a cheaper alternative to oversized and visually graphic billboards, which Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. had ordered torn down if they did not subscribe to safety and road-right-of-way guidelines.

Ebdane's order covered Metro Manila and Central Luzon to address damages caused by Typhoon "Milenyo," but DPWH officials in the provinces had been asked to monitor provincial billboards as well, according to the DPWH district office.

The city council is working on an ordinance that will reduce billboard and signboard sizes downtown, and may incorporate Bautista's proposal.

The LED option also responds to a lobby from old residents, the mayor told reporters.

Joseph Alabanza, chair of the Baguio Centennial Commission, said the residents wanted downtown to be cleared of billboards because these had altered the skyline.

"Digital signboards are efficient. They are lightweight, they are very visible so they are effective, and they do not distract motorists," he said in an earlier interview.

Bautista said a large LED screen could be put up at the center of city, similar to the giant digital screens that had become popular landmarks of New York's Times Square.

"It will be offered to all advertisers. We can also start using it for public announcements," he said.

The mayor's announcement was not welcome news to the local advertising industry.

Posters Publicities Philippines, which services Manila clients here, said LED boards could not replicate the marketing impact of billboards.

"Except for public television, billboards come second in all marketing studies conducted in this country," said Jojo Lamaria, PPP Baguio coordinator.

He said the billboards drew instant recall from consumers because of their visual impact, which LED boards did not provide.

He said billboard technology had already improved. PPP experimented with a "trivisual" billboard, a machine-powered rotator that makes use of the principle of venetian blinds.

"Each side of the blind has an image, and the machine rotates the blinds at certain intervals to reveal two images. It is very effective," he said.

The LED proposal also affects plans by an advertising firm to set up Baguio's first giant video screen, which will service Manila advertisers.

The PPP said video-screen advertising was effective but expensive. "They usually charge P500,000 a week for screening an ad in Manila," Lamaria said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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C. Luzon farmers told to try planting corn

PALAYAN CITY—AGRICULTURE officials are urging rice and vegetable farmers in Central Luzon to also produce corn to earn more.

"Right in our midst, there is a big market for corn and the buying price is quite attractive," Redentor Gatos, officer-in-charge of the Department of Agriculture field unit in Central Luzon, said.

"Our feed mills in Bulacan need one million metric tons of corn but we are producing only about 180,000 tons," he said.

Gatos, along with other DA regional officials, was here on Thursday during a gathering of farmers and local government officials who participated in the rice and corn information caravan.

He said that while rice and vegetable farmers were not being dissuaded to lessen enthusiasm in their production efforts, they could add corn production to their undertakings. This could be carried out particularly in rainfed areas.

"This will mean corn after rice or corn after vegetable production," Gatos said.

Upland areas, including grasslands along the mountain ranges, can be used to grow corn, he added.

Edwin Paningbatan, corn program action officer, said at least 75,000 hectares had remained untapped for corn production in the region. This is in addition to the existing 37,500 ha now being used for corn production, he said.

In Nueva Ecija, at least 40,000 ha could be considered for corn production, but only 2,000 are being used, he said.

"They have been planting rice or vegetables since the beginning and they are already used to the technologies about them. They are hesitant to venture on corn production because it entails a different technology," Paningbatan said.

He said that in corn production, less irrigation water and less labor were needed. In fact, he added, zero tillage in corn production could be applied as what was being done in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, and in Victoria, Tarlac.

In Carranglan, a mountainous area, 200 hectares are now being used for corn production.

Paningbatan said corn farmers could net P28,000 to P40,000 a hectare. In rice production, the net income could be from P12,000 to P15,000 only. *Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon*

SEEING GREEN

JOE HARESH TANODRA/CONTRIBUTOR

Members of a group that competed for prizes in the Dinagyang Festival in Iloilo City perform a dance number in costumes that made them look like dancing bamboo plants.

Plantations seen as a cause of Davao water woes

DAVAO CITY—THE EXPANSION of banana and commercial crop plantations in this city has been identified as one of the causes of a fast disappearing supply of water.

The environmental group Interface Development Interventions Inc. (Idis) said the continuing expansion of plantations in upland watershed areas was aggravating the depletion of sources of fresh water.

Lia Jasmin Esquillo, Idis executive director, said her group had long sounded the alarm over a looming crisis in the supply of fresh water, but no one had seemed to listen.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the country faced a water shortage in 2010, or three years from now.

It identified Davao as among the many major cities in the country that were currently suffering from a shortage in fresh water supply.

Upland watershed

"This is very alarming especially for those who know what is happening to the upland watershed areas of the city," said Esquillo.

She said, however, that not too many people were paying attention.

"It was good that the government finally found the guts to talk about this," she said.

But little is being done to prevent the crisis, she added.

This city, she said, could start by enforcing its Water Code, that regulates the use of water.

The city is currently getting its supply of potable water from the Talomo-Lipadas watershed in the third district, the same area where thousands of banana and pineapple plantations are found.

The Davao City Water District (DCWD) identified the Panigan-Tamugan watershed, that is also in the third district, as the future source of drinking water for Davao.

But chemically-dependent farming is also threatening the watershed.

"If we all allow the continuous expansion of these plantations, we can only expect to suffer the worse in the future and we don't even have to wait for 2010 to see and experience this. In fact, right now, many communities in the city do not have access to fresh water," Esquillo said.

Waterless

A study made by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) shows that at least 431 municipalities outside Metro Manila are waterless.

The city is also awaiting the enforcement of an ordinance banning aerial pesticide spraying in banana plantations. Its fate is in the hands of Mayor Duterte.

Earlier, the city council approved the resolution aimed at ending about 30 years of aerial spraying by banana companies.

More than 5,000 hectares are dedicated to bananas, particularly the Cavendish variety, here and about 25 percent of them are being sprayed from the air.

The passage of the ordinance was prompted by complaints that the aerial spraying had caused health problems among residents of areas near banana plantations, including those maintained by Dole-Stanfilco, Lapanday and the Antonio M. Soriano Group.

Councilor Leonardo Avila III said Duterte could sign or veto the ordinance.

Avila said that if Duterte failed to act on it, the ordinance would lapse into law.

He said the approval of the ordinance would send a message that Davao City supported economic development but would not neglect people's health and the environment.

The ordinance prescribes a three-month period of transition from the use of aerial spray to boom sprays. It also retains the 30-meter buffer zones from public lands, public thoroughfares and private lands near plantations.

Avila said the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association previously asked the city council for a 25-year phaseout period. *Jeffrey Tupas, with a report from Rizalene Acac and Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Undermanned Comelec taps casual employees

COTABATO CITY—The Commission on Elections has started to tap the services of casuals, some coming from local government units, in preparing for the May elections.

Acting city election officer Arlan Mangelen has admitted to the deployment of casual employees in his office but said it was the Comelec that was paying for their salaries.

"We have no casuals paid by any other office but by the commission," he said.

Mangelen said two casual employees were currently working with him.

"No one from the local government unit works with us, it is against the law," he said.

Mangelen said six students from different colleges in the city were also helping the Comelec office as part of their "on the job training."

North Cotabato election officer Lilian Radam said at least four casual employees paid by the provincial government had been deployed to Pikit, Matalam and President Roxas towns.

"We requested them because of the bulk of job in preparation for the upcoming election," Radam said.

But she said they would only be assigned to clerical jobs. "We will not allow them to handle sensitive jobs or let them use office computers."

Radam said that other local government units (LGUs) in the province also hired casuals for deployment to Comelec offices. This is allowed by law, she said.

But Kasan Usi, Comelec officer for Shariff Kabunsuan province, said his staff members were all paid for by the Comelec.

"I have no casual employees coming from the LGUs. I do not allow that," Usi said.

THE COMMISSION on Elections office in Manila is a busy place nowadays. Among those who came to visit was boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao, who would supposedly drum up support for a campaign for peaceful elections.

REM ZAMORA

But Usi said LGU units could deploy casuals for clerical jobs in Comelec offices.

Rey Sumalipao, Comelec director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the LGU-paid casuals would be properly screened to ensure "impartiality in the exercise of their functions."

"We will see to it that they are not related to any of the candidates," said Usi.

In Iligan, 20 casuals were deployed to the Comelec office to help in clerical functions, according to Liza Barredo, city election officer.

Barredo said that under Comelec Resolution No. 06-08535 dated Aug. 9, 2006, LGU-paid casuals could be deployed for small tasks in Comelec field offices.

Barredo said casuals could really help because the Comelec office was always undermanned.

In Butuan, city election officer Abelardo Saco said he would no longer allow the deployment of casuals paid by the local government to "truly ensure the conduct of honest, orderly and clean elections in May."

Saco said the deployment could ease the job but he wanted to avoid public criticism.

In Bislig City in Surigao del Sur, at least five LGU casuals have been deployed to the Comelec office, according to election officer Alma Acosta.

In Davao City, poll officials said they did not believe that the deployment of LGU-paid casuals could affect the credibility of the elections.

Lacsasa Casar, election officer for the third district, emphasized that casual workers did not have "access to sensitive election matters." *Jeoffrey Maitem, Aquiles Zonio, Richel Umel, Rizalene Acac, Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez, Eldie Aguirre, Franklin Caliguid, Julie Alipala and Bert Pacate, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cops drop rebellion case vs 8 in Davao

DAVAO CITY—Police withdrew the rebellion charges they filed against eight Left militants based in this city. Two policemen who initiated the filing of the charges apologized.

Franco Duca and Rex Rodriguez, agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Southern Mindanao, withdrew the charges against Jeppie Ramada, Bayan Muna-Southern Mindanao coordinator; Ariel Casilao, Bayan Muna Southern Mindanao secretary general; and Left leaders Editha Duterte, Corazon Espinoza, Antonio Flores, Lorie Ann Cascaro, Omar Bantayan and Luz Ilagan.

JOINING protests has become risky for leaders and members of leftist groups, but this girl took the chance in a recent rally in front of the US Embassy in Manila against US military presence in the Philippines. In Davao City, rallies such as this could land protesters in jail.

REM ZAMORA

Charged

The eight were charged with Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador for joining a rally last year to commemorate the first Edsa Revolution.

The CIDG had said the Left leaders and Virador, during the rally, "shouted their ... beliefs to establish a transitional council to replace the Arroyo regime and to oust PGMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo)."

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who briefly joined the rally, was not charged.

The eight leaders sued the two CIDG agents for incompetence at the People's Law Enforcement Board (Pleb).

In a letter dated Jan. 26, Duca and Rodriguez informed the militant leaders about the withdrawal of the complaints.

Complaints

"We realized that human memory and perception have [their] limits, including our capacity to translate into precise words what we had actually seen ...," the letter said.

But while issuing an apology, the agents said the filing of the charges had "no malice."

"(It was done) purely in the lawful performance of our duties, and upon (sic) a sincere and good faith and belief that we had seen the events alleged therein to the best of our recollection," Duca and Rodriguez said.

Struggle

Casilao said the withdrawal of the charges was "a tactical victory of the street parliamentarians in the struggle for justice."

He also said the withdrawal of the complaints "should serve as a wake-up call" for the police.

Another Left leader wanted by authorities for allegedly being a communist guerrilla refused to surrender, saying he would end up dead in the hands of law enforcers.

Alvin Luque, former secretary general of Bayan Muna-Southern Mindanao, said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER that he would stay in hiding because he feared for his life.

Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

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Atok's hidden gems

By Delmar Cariño
Atok, Benguet

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

THE VEGETABLE terraces in the mountaintops and slopes of Atok, Benguet, are a thrill to see.

One traveling along Halsema Highway will still be treated to a panoramic view of verdant vegetable farms, often draped by low clouds and chilled by cold breeze felt most biting during this time of the year.

No wonder the town is called Atok, which is derived from the Ibaloi word "*naypatok shi chontóg*," meaning "on the mountaintop."

But subdued by the mystique of this town's mountain ranges are Naguey and Pasdong, two villages found below. The villages have a nature unscathed and beauty roused from slumber every morning by the sun's rays that cascade from the slopes.

Naguey and Pasdong, together with Abiang, are the most remote and low-lying villages compared to Caliking, Cattubo, Paoay, Poblacion and Topdac. But Naguey, with 268 farm households, and Pasdong, with 151, boast of rice terraces that leave visitors in awe, particularly when the fields are in their peak lush and green.

WOMEN harvest a bounty in the rice fields of Pasdong village in Atok, Benguet. DELMAR CARIÑO

The Naguey rice terraces are built with stonewalls on a slope, while Pasdong's are made with dikes on a base just above the Amburayan River.

When combined, the terraces reach more than 50 hectares.

Mayor Concepcion Balao said Naguey and Pasdong are the town's hidden gems.

Potentials

"They are the best in the province and we are asking tourism officials to include them in their development plan in order to boost their commercial potentials," she said.

The steep road to Naguey and Pasdong starts at Camp 30 that connects to the national highway. It is 20 km from the main road but most sections of the one-way road are concrete, making the hour-long trip less tiring.

The beauty of the rice terraces already beckons while descending from Poblacion.

Between Naguey and Pasdong is a huge mountain pastureland that overlooks the Amburayan. The road to Pasdong from Naguey was carefully carved from the pastureland, and driving requires the knack of maintaining only the lower gears of the vehicle.

The Amburayan flows smoothly between Naguey and Pasdong to make the irrigation of rice fields possible.

The river's cold and pristine waters make swimming enjoyable. A dip makes one feel the water's virgin flow.

'Yes, Tina, there's a Santa Claus and he's causing the cold morns in Baguio'

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

IN MEMORIAM

AMONG SAGADA people in Mt. Province, a house fire would be followed by cold weather.

Two years ago, a house in Barangay Poblacion in Sagada town was razed and true enough, a week later, it became unusually cold even for November.

Baguio City is unusually cold this week and we don't know of any significant fires that hit us.

Maybe George Jularbal had an explanation for this. He died quietly of emphysema on Jan. 20 and on Sunday, his media colleagues planted pine trees at the Busol watershed, in what had become a new tradition among us. After that, it became cold.

The only time the younger members of the Baguio media had a chance to cover a news event with Jularbal was almost 10 years ago when the National Museum decided to return the mummy of Ibaloi warrior Anno to a cave in Nabalicong in Buguias, Benguet.

Jularbal was then retiring as features editor of the Saudi Gazette and the coverage was to be his homecoming. It was much colder then and he amused us with his coverage stories during the martial law years.

He had become a complete vegetarian while in Saudi Arabia, but he ate ritual pork with the rest of us and even drank gin, which he said he had not tasted for a long time.

Anno was supposed to be the Ibaloi rain god and it did rain heavily in Baguio during the burial.

After that coverage, we had not seen much of Jularbal, except for the funny obituaries he wrote for colleagues Jose Nicolas Ilagan and Bagnos Cudiamat, his "comrades in pen."

Golden age

Jularbal and the rest of the Marcos-era journalists in Baguio belonged to what Ramon Dacawi called the "golden era of Baguio journalism."

Ilagan, Dacawi and the others, like Steve Hamada, Bembo Afable, Boo Evangelista, Andrew Jularbal and my brother Domecio Cimatu, were activists hiding somewhere on the outskirts, while Willy Cacdac and Jularbal were manning the defunct radio station dzHB on Assumption Road. Actually, the station was where the activists were hiding and drinking during off-hours.

The broadcasters, including Bong Lapira, had great English enunciation and some, like Jularbal, Cacdac and Eliral Refuerzo, also of dzHB, also wrote well. Some also sang well, but that is a subject for another story.

They belonged to the "Asin Republic," named after the Asin Hot Springs where journalists, and even their police captors, had their wild-and-wooly weekends, pretending that dictator Ferdinand Marcos' martial rule never existed.

Of course, martial law existed, even with the Baguio journalists. Nathan Alcantara would sometimes lose his voice because of the trauma of torture. Isidoro Chammag became deaf because he was whacked with a gun.

Eventually, Ilagan, Cimatu and the rest turned Gold Ore, the student newspaper of the Baguio Colleges Foundation (now University of the Cordilleras), into a community newspaper, competing with the Baguio Midland Courier during the Marcos years.

Percy Della, then Philippine News Agency sportswriter and now California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenneger's energy spokesperson, recalled those years when he and Jularbal would get so drunk that they pissed on the islands of Session Road.

Obituaries

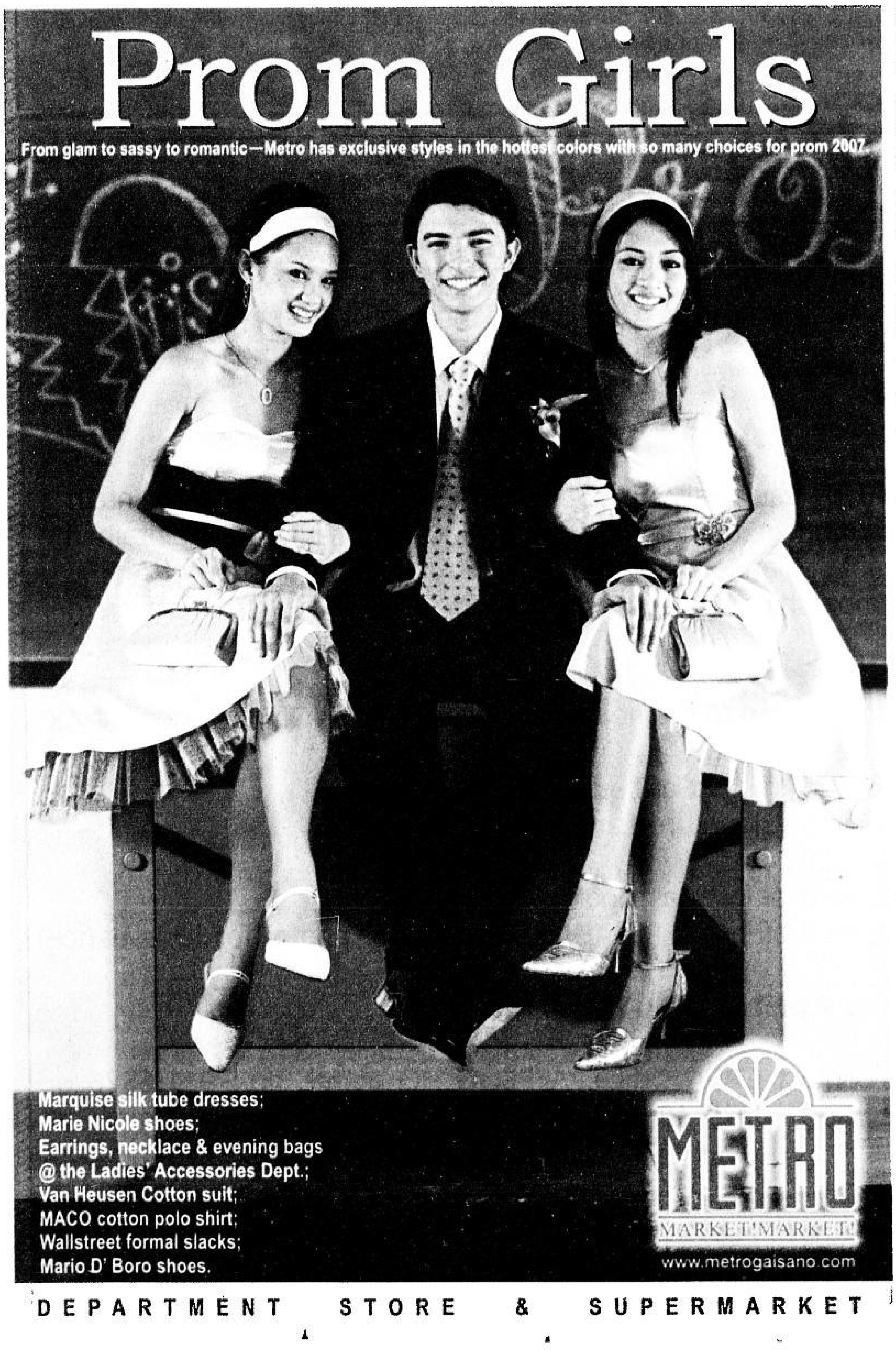
Jularbal went on to write and edit for PNA and then joined the Philippine Daily Inquirer as desk editor before he left for Saudi Arabia.

Dacawi remembered that when Jularbal was about to leave (to finance his youngest daughter's medical schooling), he wrote her, "No, Tina. There is no Santa Claus."

We knew Jularbal was really sick because we did not see his obituaries for Cacdac and radio announcer Juan Tenorio, who both died last year.

Jularbal died when Antonio Romawac, a former activist and another Baguio boy who lived the life, was about to be buried. The Romawac children, who composed four-fifths of the band Session Road, held a concert at SM City Baguio after their father's burial and as the wake for Jularbal was being set up.

Jularbal was 62. And yes, Tina. There is a Santa Claus and he is causing the cold mornings in Baguio right now.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ADVISORY

In connection with its policy on electronic distribution of pensions, the Government Service Insurance System wishes to inform its pensioners that the monthly crediting of pensions to their eCard's ATM accounts shall be done **every first working day of the month.**

Pensioners are advised to check the account balances in their eCards after this crediting day.

Likewise, the GSIS is renewing its call to pensioners who still do not have eCards to go to their servicing GSIS office to prevent disruption in their monthly pensions.

Thank you.

(Original Signed)
ENRIQUETA P. DISUANCO
Executive Vice President
Operations Sector

Affection and compassion for Chin-Chin

By Desiree Caluza
Baguio City

"THE NIGHT IS SO BEAUTIFUL, isn't it? It is just so beautiful," said Jim Ward, whose eyes were gleaming in the midst of a dance performed by Raymund "Rama" Marcaida at Ayuyang Bar and Restaurant in Baguio City on Saturday night.

Ward, owner of Bliss Café in Baguio, and Marcaida, who has 20 years of training in dance, are just two of actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez's friends who honored her courage when she survived a fire that ravaged her family's house in Quezon City in December.

In the tribute "Out of the Ashes," visual artists, writers and friends of Gutierrez gathered for a night of poetry, music and dance in two separate venues in the city.

The tribute was a fund-raising event for Gutierrez, a multi-awarded actress and environmentalist to the public and a very spiritual person to her close friends.

Fund raising

The event was the second fund-raising project for Gutierrez who lost her house, cars and all belongings to the fire. The first was held at Merck's Bar in Metro Manila owned by jazz singer Richard Merck.

"We wanted to do this for Chin-Chin because we want to let her and the people know that the Baguio community loves her so much," Ward said.

He said he and his wife Shanti Isla immediately visited Gutierrez in the hospital after learning about the fire. Gutierrez was the couple's "flower godmother" in a Tibetan wedding rite in Tagaytay City in September last year.

"Whenever Shanti and I travel, we always carry with us an image of the Buddha. We gave the image to Chin-Chin as a gift. The image was the first [possession] she had after losing everything to the fire," Ward said.

He said Gutierrez was close to the Baguio community because of her environmental work with the Maryknoll Sisters. She also staged an exhibit of her paintings at Bliss Café in May last year and held a concert at Ayuyang.

The first part of the event kicked off at Bliss Café with the opening of the photo exhibit "Sipat," featuring 19 black and white photos of Budo Baylosis, 22.

Baylosis said part of the proceeds of the exhibit would go to the funds raised for Gutierrez.

Sing India Music of the Soul, a group of musicians from India, and singer-composer Cynthia Alexander performed meditative music combined with chants and prayers.

"Chin-Chin is a good friend, and we want to do this music for her. She is very spiritual and has a wonderful personality," said Pinnu Wasu, a harmonium player.

Poetry reading

At Ayuyang, the Baguio Writers Group, an organization of creative writers in the city led by Babeth Lolarga, held a poetry reading between musical and dance numbers.

Padmapani Perez read Gutierrez's poem "Flower of the Mountain," while Jennifer Cariño read her "Residence," a poem on recreating life.

Gilbert Francia, Dennis Gutierrez and Dion Fernandez read their original poems on longing, loneliness and solitude.

A duo, Shirley and Bobby, performed a couple of songs while Ridaw, composed of John Marasigan and Myke Sotero, performed the Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio classic "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," a song dedicated to Gutierrez's mother who survived the fire but died a few weeks later.

"It feels good to sing for someone who cares," Marasigan said, referring to Gutierrez's humanitarian side.

Alexander performed an original song, "Empty-handed," which was inspired by the Buddhist belief that people enter the world empty-handed and leave the same way.

Marcaida performed an interpretative dance of Gary Valenciano's song, "The Warrior is a Child."

RAYMUND Marcaida performs during a benefit concert for actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez.
GARI BUENAVISTA/CONTRIBUTOR

Temporary water interruption in Cainta and Taytay needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water will be conducting an upgrade of its distribution lines to improve water distribution in the East Zone. We regret to inform you that we will temporarily interrupt water supply in portions of Cainta and Taytay, Rizal starting 11:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, up to 6:00 a.m., Thursday, February 1, 2007 due to the energization of a mainline and commissioning of a pump along Ortigas Avenue, Cainta. The following areas will be affected: Barangays San Isidro, San Juan and Sto. Niño in Cainta and Barangays San Juan and Dolores in Taytay.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

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(PDI – Jan. 31, 2007)

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 02 , s-2007

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, MEMBERS OF PHILHEALTH AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment to RVS Coding of Laparoscopic and Other Procedures

1. The following RVS codes for laparoscopic procedures shall be deleted from the list of compensable procedures:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
56301	Laparoscopy, surgical; with fulguration of oviducts (with or without transection)	20
56303	Laparoscopy, surgical; with fulguration or excision of lesions of the ovary, pelvic viscera, or peritoneal surface by any method	20
56304	Laparoscopy, surgical; with lysis of adhesions	75
56305	Laparoscopy, surgical; with biopsy (single or multiple)	40
56306	Laparoscopy, surgical; with aspiration (single or multiple)	40
56307	Laparoscopy, surgical; with removal of adnexal structures (partial or total oophorectomy and/ or salpingectomy)	300
56308	Laparoscopy, surgical; with vaginal hysterectomy with or without removal of tube(s), with or without removal of ovary(s) (laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy)	200
56309	Laparoscopy, surgical; with removal of leiomyomata, subserosal (single or multiple)	150
56311	Laparoscopy, surgical; with retroperitoneal lymph node sampling (biopsy), single or multiple	150
56312	Laparoscopy, surgical; with bilateral total pelvic lymphadenectomy	150
56313	Laparoscopy, surgical; with bilateral total pelvic lymphadenectomy and peri-aortic lymph node sampling (biopsy), single or multiple	400
56315	Laparoscopy, surgical; appendectomy	100
56316	Laparoscopy, surgical; repair of initial inguinal hernia	50
56317	Laparoscopy, surgical; repair of recurrent inguinal hernia	100
56320	Laparoscopy, surgical; with ligation of spermatic veins for varicocele	60
56322	Laparoscopy, surgical; transection of vagus nerves, truncal	100
56323	Laparoscopy, surgical; transection of vagus nerves, selective or highly selective	110
56324	Laparoscopy, surgical, cholecystoenterostomy	250
56340	Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy (any method)	180
56341	Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy with cholangiography	200
56342	Laparoscopy, surgical; cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct	300
56343	Laparoscopy, surgical; with salpingostomy	100
56344	Laparoscopy, surgical; with fimbrioplasty	75
56350	Hysteroscopy, diagnostic	16
56351	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with sampling (biopsy) of endometrium and/ or polypectomy, with or without D & C	20
56352	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with lysis of intrauterine adhesions (any method)	75
56353	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with division or resection of intrauterine septum (any method)	75
56354	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with removal of leiomyomata	150
56355	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with removal of impacted foreign body	30
56356	Hysteroscopy, surgical, with endometrial ablation (any method)	40
56362	Laparoscopy with guided transhepatic cholangiography; without biopsy	60
56363	Laparoscopy with guided transhepatic cholangiography; with biopsy	60

2. However, the following laparoscopic procedures shall be added to the list of compensable procedures based on the 2006 Current Procedural Terminology of the American Medical Association:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
38120	Laparoscopy, surgical, splenectomy	160
38570	Laparoscopy, surgical; with retroperitoneal lymph node sampling (biopsy), single or multiple	150
38571	with bilateral total pelvic lymphadenectomy	150
38572	with bilateral total pelvic lymphadenectomy and peri-aortic lymph node sampling (biopsy), single or multiple	400
43280	Laparoscopy, surgical, esophagogastic fundoplasty (e.g., Nissen, Toupet procedures)	300
43651	Laparoscopy, surgical, transection of vagus nerves, truncal	100
43652	transection of vagus nerve, selective or highly selective	110
43653	gastrostomy, without construction of gastric tube (e.g Stamm Procedure)	100
44180	Laparoscopy, surgical, enterolysis (freeing of intestinal adhesion)	100
44186	Laparoscopy, surgical; jejunostomy (e.g. for decompression or feeding)	80
44187	ileostomy or jejunostomy, non-tube	80
44188	Laparoscopy, surgical, colostomy or skin level cecostomy	100
44202	Laparoscopy, surgical, enterectomy, resection of small intestine, single resection and anastomosis	150
44204	colectomy, partial, with anastomosis	250
44205	colectomy, partial with removal of terminal ileum with ileocolostomy	450
44206	colectomy, partial, with end colostomy and closure of distal segment (Hartmann type procedure)	250
44207	colectomy, partial, with anastomosis, with coloproctostomy (low pelvic anastomosis)	400
44208	colectomy, partial, with anastomosis, with coloproctostomy (low pelvic anastomosis) with colostomy	450
44210	colectomy, total, abdominal, without proctectomy, with ileostomy or ileoproctostomy	400
44211	colectomy, total, abdominal, with protectomy, with ileo-anal anastomosis, creation of ileal reservoir (S or J), with loop ileostomy, with or without rectal mucosectomy	450
44212	colectomy, total, abdominal, with protectomy, with ileostomy	400
44227	Laparoscopy, surgical; closure of enterostomy, large or small intestine, with resection and anastomosis	100
44970	Laparoscopy, surgical; appendectomy	100
45395	Laparoscopy, surgical, protectomy, complete combined abdominoperineal, with colostomy	400
45397	protectomy, combined abdominoperineal pull through procedure (e.g., colo-anal anastomosis), with creation of colonic reservoir (e.g., J-pouch), with diverting enterostomy, when performed	400
45400	Laparoscopy, surgical; proctopexy (for prolapse)	180
45402	proctopexy (for prolapse), with sigmoid resection	200
47370	Laparoscopy, surgical, ablation of one or more liver tumor(s); radiofrequency	50
47371	cryosurgical	50
47560	Laparoscopy, surgical; with guided transhepatic cholangiography, without biopsy	60
47561	with guided transhepatic cholangiography, with biopsy	60
47562	cholecystectomy (any method)	180
47563	cholecystectomy with cholangiography	200
47564	cholecystectomy with exploration of common duct	300
47570	cholecystoenterostomy	250
49320	Laparoscopy, abdomen, peritoneum, and omentum, diagnostic, with or without collection of specimen(s) by brushing or washing	20
49321	Laparoscopy, surgical; with biopsy (single or multiple)	40
49322	with aspiration of cavity or cyst (single or multiple)	40
49323	with drainage of lymphocele to peritoneal cavity	40
49650	Laparoscopy, surgical; repair of initial inguinal hernia	100
49651	repair of recurrent inguinal hernia	100
50541	Laparoscopy, surgical; ablation of renal cysts	50
50542	ablation of renal mass lesion (s)	50
50543	partial nephrectomy	150
50544	pyeloplasty	180
50545	radical nephrectomy (includes removal of Gerota's fascia and surrounding fatty tissue, removal of regional lymph nodes and adrenalectomy)	180
50546	nephrectomy, including partial ureterectomy	150
50547	donor nephrectomy (including cold preservation), from living donor	150
50548	nephrectomy with total ureterectomy	200
50945	Laparoscopy, surgical; ureterolithotomy	110
50947	ureteroneocystostomy with cystoscopy and ureteral stent placement	150
50948	ureteroneocystostomy without cystoscopy and ureteral stent placement	150
51990	Laparoscopy, surgical; urethral suspension for stress incontinence	200
51992	sling operation for stress incontinence (e.g., fascia or synthetic)	200
54690	Laparoscopy, surgical; orchiectomy	50
54692	orchiopexy for intra-abdominal testis	70
55550	Laparoscopy, surgical; with ligation of spermatic vein for varicele	60
55866	Laparoscopy, surgical prostatectomy, retropubic radical, including nerve sparing	250
57425	Laparoscopy, surgical, colpopexy (suspension of vaginal apex)	180
58545	Laparoscopy, surgical, myomectomy, excision; intramural myomas and/ or removal of surface myomas	150
58550	Laparoscopy surgical, with vaginal hysterectomy;	200
58552	with removal of tube(s) and/ or ovary(s)	200
58555	Hysteroscopy, diagnostic	20
58558	Hysteroscopy, surgical; with sampling (biopsy) of endometrium and / or polypectomy, with or without D & C	20
58559	with lysis of intrauterine adhesions (any method)	75
58560	with division or resection of intraterine septum (any method)	75
58561	with removal of leiomyomata	150
58562	with removal of impacted foreign body	30
58563	with endometrial ablation (e.g., endometrial resection, electrosurgical ablation thermoablation)	40
58565	with bilateral fallopian tube cannulation to induce occlusion by placement of permanent implants	20
58660	Laparoscopy, surgical; with lysis of adhesions (salphingolysis, ovariolysis)	75
58661	with removal of adnexal structures (partial or total oophorectomy and/ or salpingectomy)	300
58662	with fulguration or excision of lesions of the ovary, pelvic viscera, or peritoneal surface by any method	75
58670	with fulguration of oviducts (with or without transection)	75
58671	with occlusion of oviducts by device (e.g., band, clip, or Falope ring)	75
58672	with fimbrioplasty	75
58673	with salphingostomy (salpingoneostomy)	100
59150	Laparoscopic treatment of ectopic pregnancy; without salpingectomy and/ or oophorectomy	150
59151	with salpingectomy and/ or oopractomy	150
60650	Laparoscopy surgical, with adrenalectomy, partial or complete, or exploration of adrenal gland with or without biopsy, transabdominal, lumbar or dorsal	200

3. The code for phacoemulsification of cataract (RVS code 69887) shall however be revised as follows:

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
66987	Extracapsular cataract removal with insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis (one stage procedure), (e.g., phacoemulsification)	200

4. The relative value unit for closed treatment of complicated temporomandibular dislocation (RVS code 21485) shall be increased to 200.

CODE	DESCRIPTIVE TERMS	RVU
21485	Closed treatment of temporomandibular dislocation; complicated (e.g., recurrent requiring intermaxillary fixation or splinting), initial or subsequent	200

This circular shall be implemented for all admissions starting February 1, 2007.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO
Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: January 9, 2007

Crocs are no crooks, say reptile lovers

By Tina G. Santos

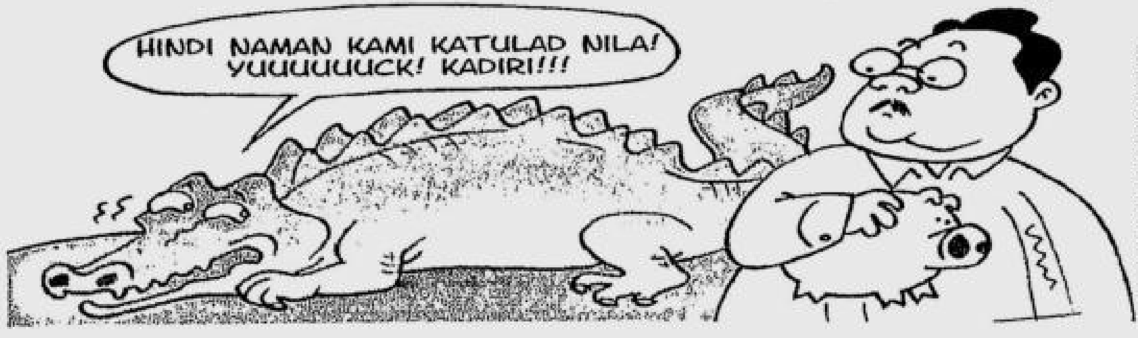

HINDI NAMAN KAMI KATULAD NILA! YUUUUUUCK! KADIRI!!!

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

DON'T INSULT THE CROCODILE by comparing it to the corrupt and greedy politician.

While the latter is notorious for his appetite for public funds, the former is a harmless and shy animal classified as critically endangered, said Vicente Mercado, president of Crocodylus Porosus Philippines Inc. (CPPI), an association of commercial crocodile farmers.

"It's not fair to the crocodile, because it only eats five percent of its weight, unlike the politician—*walang kabusugan* (who doesn't get full)," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Mercado, along with Siliman University, which pioneered crocodile farming in the country in the 1980s, the National Museum and the City of Manila, has organized a three-day forum, and invited Filipino and foreign crocodile experts from different countries like Japan, the United States and Australia.

Various topics, ranging from conservation, captive management, commercial farming, humane slaughter and the utilization of crocodile meat will be discussed during the forum that starts tomorrow at the Tambunting Hall of the National Museum.

"We need to know what aspects [of farming and conservation] we need to improve," he said, adding that the gathering of experts would highlight the conservation of both species of crocodiles found in the Philippines—the Crocodylus porosus or Indo-Pacific crocodile and the Crocodylus mindorensis or the Philippine crocodile.

Extremely rare

In the Philippines, the Indo-Pacific crocodile, which can grow up to 7 meters in length can be found in rivers, major lakes and marshlands and coastal areas.

While it is actively being managed in the wild and not considered endangered in countries like Australia and New Guinea, the Indo-Pacific crocodile is in imminent danger of extinction and considered extremely rare in the Philippines.

"It has one of the most prized skins of all crocodilians owing to fewer bony plates on the side and an intricate pattern of belly scales. These are characteristics in high demand by European fashion houses," Mercado disclosed.

In contrast, the Philippine crocodile is a species restricted or endemic to the country. It is found in Palawan, on Dalupiri Island, Abra, northern Sierra Madre and certain parts of Mindanao.

"This species is highly endangered. Exact population levels in the wild are unknown but they are extremely rare," Mercado said.

Most endangered

The Philippine crocodile is often referred to as "the most endangered species of crocodilian in the world," he said.

Compared to the Indo-Pacific crocodile, the Philippine crocodile, which is relatively smaller, has no commercial value at present.

"There is a possibility, however, that ranching or egg collection schemes may be encouraged in the future as a means to providing livelihood for marsh residents and protection for the crocodiles," Mercado said.

The forum will also dwell on the etymology of "crocodile," according to Charles Ross, a retired herpetologist (branch of zoology concerned with the study of reptiles and amphibians) from the Smithsonian Institution, who conducted a survey of the reptile's distribution and natural history in the early '80s.

Conservation

"The crocodile did not used to have any negative connotation in Philippine culture. I think being associated with corrupt and greedy politicians is a modern phenomena," Ross said. "We should go back to the old [meaning] because it's unfair to our crocodiles."

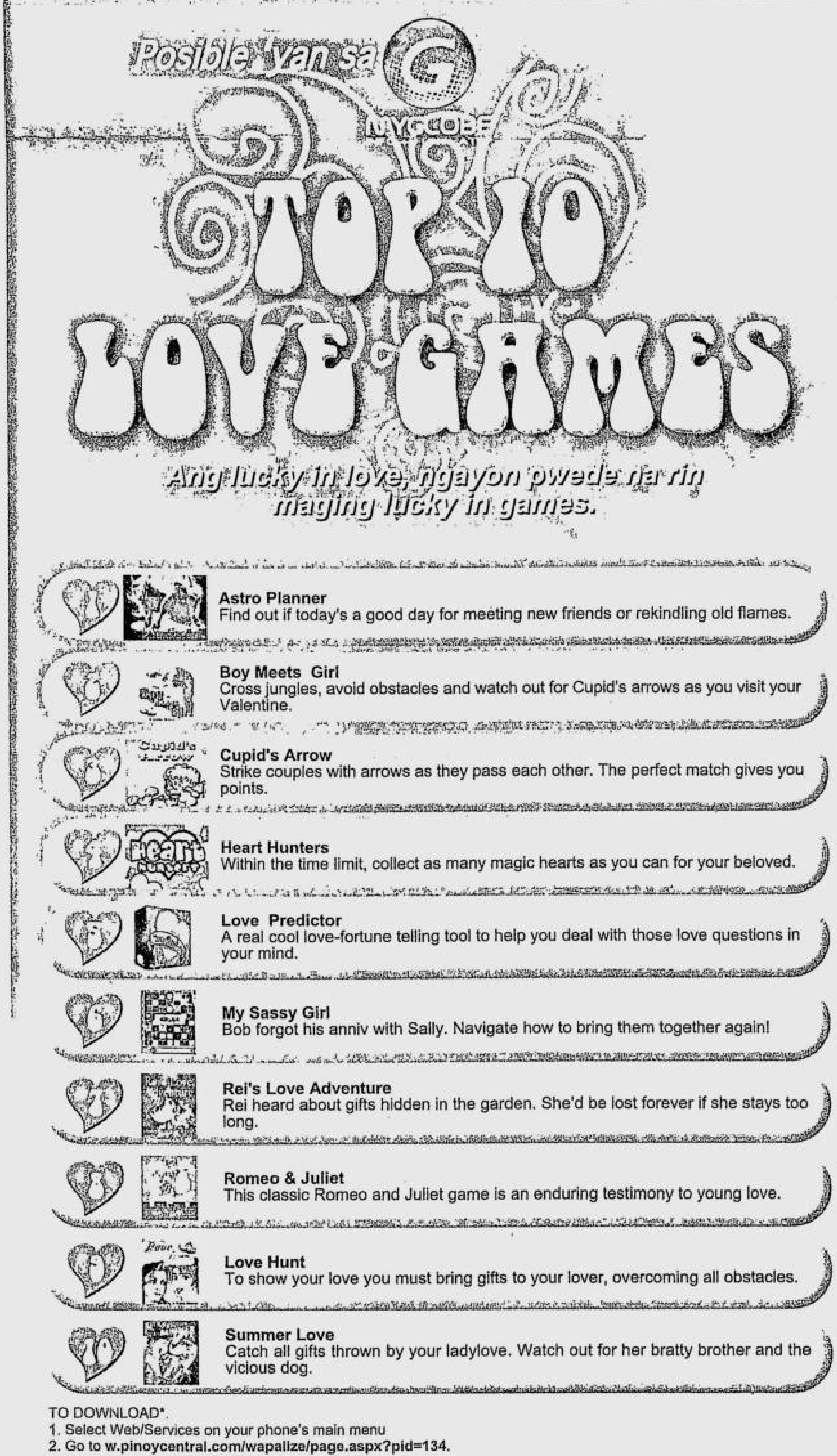
Mercado said it was Ross, whose work continues to be the primary source of information available on crocodiles in the Philippines, who opened his eyes to the value of crocodile conservation.

"I never realized the importance of conservation until I met him (Ross) a few years ago," admitted Mercado, whose fascination with crocodiles began out of curiosity.

"I was just busy farming then. But when he came, he asked me, 'So what are you doing about conservation?' I said, 'Nothing. Are we supposed to do something about it?'"

"[Ross] made me understand that commercial farming should go hand in hand with conservation. Without conservation, the international people will not look at you and they will treat you differently. They will not even buy from you," Mercado said. "Now it seems that the conservation we're doing is much more important than the commercial farming."

"Gusto ko game na game ako sa Valentine's."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Boratong case hearing to push through

By Alcuin Papa, Leila B. Salaverria and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

CONTRARY TO JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez's opinion, an official of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) said there was a strong case against alleged Pasig City shabu market operator Amin Imam Boratong.

In a press conference at Camp Crame yesterday, AMLC Executive Director Vicente Aquino said they filed a petition for the forfeiture of Boratong's assets in August last year.

"With due respect to the justice secretary, we have investigated this case and filed the petition. We won't file a court action without strong evidence. Personally speaking, we have a strong case against Boratong," Aquino said.

"We found probable cause to prove that the funds and assets are related to unlawful acts," he added. "That is the basis for the filing of the civil forfeiture case."

Aquino estimated Boratong's worth at around P40 million in cash and assets.

If the AMLC gets a favorable ruling from the court, the money will go to the national treasury.

An INQUIRER report on Monday said Gonzalez described the evidence against Boratong as weak and police witness Samir Palao as lacking in credibility.

"As of now, the evidence is very weak against Boratong. The only evidence against him is what Palao has been talking about. But there is also evidence that Palao was actually running the place and that .he was being used by the police," the justice secretary said in a subsequent interview.

Palao, Boratong's half-brother, earlier told the police that the latter owned and maintained the compound of shabu dens in Pasig City that was raided by the police in February 2006.

Gonzalez yesterday asked Pasig police chief Senior Supt. Francisco Uyami to present the evidence he has against Boratong to the Department of Justice.

BORATONG/ A24

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Woman accused of burning down boss' house faces raps

By DJ Yap

CHARGES WERE FILED ON MONday against a 22-year-old woman accused of setting fire to the house and vehicles of her former employer, an operator of a school service business in Quezon City.

Janet Albalate was charged with consummated arson in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, a week after she allegedly burnt down the house of Susan Policarpio at 40 Valiant St., South Fairview on Jan. 23.

The fire also injured two persons and destroyed Policarpio's school service vehicles: two Nissan Urvans, a van and a Kia Besta, according to the complaint.

Based on the charge sheet filed by the Quezon City fire department, Albalate, who used to help out with Policarpio's business, allegedly attacked her employer hours before the fire occurred at 2:45 a.m.

Policarpio told investigators that the accused, who apparently knew she had P10,000 in her pocket, entered her bedroom at around 9 p.m. on Jan. 22 and hit her several times on the head with a tire wrench.

It was only when Policarpio's son rushed to his mother's bedroom that Albalate stopped hitting the victim, according to Policarpio's affidavit. The suspect fled after the incident, it added.

Policarpio was taken to the Far Eastern University Hospital where she was treated for head wounds, the victim said.

Several hours later, when she had been discharged from the hospital and had gone to bed, members of the household woke up and saw smoke coming from the garage, investigators said.

The fire quickly spread to the rest of the house. Injured in the incident were Marlon Gaza, Policarpio's driver, and FO3 Fernando Joaquin, a fireman. Both sustained second degree burns.

Arson investigators said the fire was intentional after they found signs that it had been started by using kerosene and strips of cloth found inside a plastic blue jar.

Upon questioning, Policarpio said only Albalate had the motive to burn down the house.

The victim's neighbor, Julie Ann Abad, recounted to investigators that two weeks before the incident, Albalate drank liquor at her store, during which she told Abad that she would make "something explode" at the Policarpios.

SIGN ON

Shoes & Bags Repair

SHOE BIZ A shoe repair shop on Kalayaan Street, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

Double tragedy for returning seaman

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A-33-YEAR-OLD SEAFARER COULD NOT contain his anger and frustration when he went to the Navotas police yesterday to report that his house was burglarized while he and his wife were attending to their sick child in the hospital.

PO3 Dante Majadas said the victim, Emmanuel Bonus, of 8 Interior San Rafael, Cipac, was trembling and very upset when he reported the incident to the police at around 4:30 a.m. Bonus told the police that the thieves took a DVD player, several pieces of jewelry, $1,000 and P5,000 in cash.

"The robbers were able to forcibly enter the house and open all the cabinets where the money were kept because no one was at home. The family left their house unattended to bring their sick child to the hospital, Majadas said.

The robbers must have been planned to rob the couple because they were obviously monitoring their moves, the policeman added.

Boratong case hearing to push through

From page A23

"What other evidence do you have? I am challenging you to present evidence strong enough to bring the case to a sound resolution. I am also challenging you to file an opposition to the petition for review filed by Boratong," Gonzalez said in a letter dated Jan. 30 addressed to the police official.

He wrote the letter in reaction to Uyami's statement that Gonzalez's opinion was "disheartening."

According to the justice secretary, after reviewing the files against Boratong, he did not find the additional evidence Uyami was talking about.

Despite the word war between Gonzalez and Uyami, the judge handling the case against Boratong is pushing through with the hearing tomorrow.

Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Abraham Borreta of Branch 154 told the INQUIRER that he knew Gonzalez had ordered public prosecutors to seek the postponement of the scheduled hearing.

But as of yesterday, court employees said they have yet to receive any motion or manifestation from the prosecution requesting for a postponement.

Bel-Air robbery victim raises security concerns

By Julie M. Aurelio

A ROBBERY VICTIM SAID SHE has forgiven the suspects who broke into her house in Bel-Air IV, Makati City on Jan. 7, but she still wants to see justice served, not only for her own peace of mind but to ensure the protection of other residents as well.

"I want to protect the other homeowners and villagers from people like those who robbed me," Aurora Villasor, 65, a widow, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Four suspects—Villasor's maid Nida Lacsao, 52; her former driver, Christopher Muyot, 32; Eduardo Montierde and Ricardo Ramos—are now standing trial on robbery charges. Car theft charges have also been filed against the three men.

Yesterday, they pleaded not guilty to the charges during their arraignment at the sala of Makati Regional Trial Court Judge Dina Teves of Branch 142.

Ruse

Villasor recounted that on Jan. 7, she was roused out of bed at around 2 a.m. by Lacsao who tearfully told her that the house was on fire.

She said she grabbed her cell phone and a flashlight, only to come face to face with three men wearing bonnets who demanded that she give them her money and jewelry.

One of the men turned out to be Muyot, whom she had fired last December.

They pointed a gun to her head and hogtied her. Prayer became her only shield, Villasor said as she pleaded, "Jesus, Jesus, have mercy."

The men made off with nearly P285,000 in cash, jewelry and other valuables.

Some of the items stolen and later recovered by the police were a Cartier watch, pearls and other precious stones.

After a few minutes, the suspects left on board her car, Villasor said.

She added that she did not know Montierde and Ramos. Muyot, on the other hand, was her driver for at least three months before she fired him for stealing from her.

Muyot was caught by police that same day while Montierde and Ramos surrendered to barangay officials separately and returned the loot they had taken from Villasor's home.

The three suspects pointed to the house help, Lacsao, as their accomplice.

No ID

"Until now, I keep asking myself how these three men were able to enter our village without a Bel-Air identification card. And they got past the guard on board my car, with no one bothering to ask the occupants why my car would be leaving Bel-Air at that hour," Villasor said.

She added that Muyot did not have an ID card that would have allowed him to gain entry into the exclusive subdivision.

The three suspects, along with Lacsao, are set to attend a pre-trial hearing on Feb. 13.

Public prosecutor Anna Michelle Veluz told the INQUIRER that Lacsao, who was only charged with robbery, was able to post a bail bond for P100,000.

"The other three suspects have been committed to the Makati City Jail," she said.

Veluz added she plans to present at least four witnesses, including the complainant and the two arresting officers, for the trial.

"I have forgiven them already," Villasor told the INQUIRER. "But it doesn't mean that they should be released just like that. They have to pay for what they did."

College student found dead in Pasig apartment

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING the killing of a 19-year-old computer science student who was found dead inside the bathroom of the apartment she and her elder sister were renting in Pasig City.

The victim was naked when her sister found her body the other night.

She sustained five stab wounds, mostly in her belly. A red scarf was tied around her neck, Scene of the Crime Operative Senior Insp. Russel Leysa told the INQUIRER.

Leysa said the victim could have been raped, although the results of the laboratory tests have yet to be released.

The victim's two cell phones were also missing, the Pasig City Police added.

Police said Grace Docuyanan discovered the body of her sister Fe, a student of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, at around 7:45 p.m. Monday in the upper floor of the two-story apartment they were renting on St. Paul Street, SPS Subdivision in Barangay Rosario.

The victim did not have classes that day so she stayed in the apartment while Grace reported for work, city investigation chief Senior Insp. Lorenzo Trajano said.

When Grace came home, she was shocked to find her sister's body.

Police suspect the victim knew her attacker or attackers because there were no signs of forcible entry into the house, Trajano said.

But the killer or killers could have also waited for the victim to open the house before barging in, police chief Senior Supt. Francisco Uyami added.

The bedroom was in disarray, leading investigators to believe she could have fought against her attacker(s) and ran to the bathroom where the assailant(s) caught up with her, Trajano said.

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Hearing on review of Leviste case set today

By Tarra Quismundo

UNLESS STOPPED BY THE COURT, SENIOR State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco will push through with the hearing today of the justice department's review of the homicide case filed against former Batangas Gov. Antonio "Tony" Leviste.

Velasco, who heads the review, said in open court yesterday that the scheduled 2 p.m. hearing would proceed although Makati Judge Elmo Alameda has yet to resolve the issue of the defense's opposition to the reinvestigation.

Alameda said he would decide on Leviste's appeal to the reinvestigation order today. But he gave Velasco leeway whether or not to proceed with the hearing pending the court's resolution of the issue.

"This is being done in order not to prolong the agony of the former governor. I will proceed unless restrained by the court," Velasco told reporters yesterday morning.

"We will defer only to the order of the honorable court or any higher court like the Court of Appeals, or the Supreme Court. But if there's no order, we will push through with it, we will proceed," he later told the media.

Leviste's camp has been protesting the reinvestigation which Alameda, presiding judge of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150, approved during a hearing last week. The victim's family sought the review before the Department of Justice, contending that Leviste should be charged for the heavier offense of murder.

The court's review order deferred Leviste's scheduled arraignment on Jan. 24, which would have placed him under the jurisdiction of the court as an accused for homicide.

The charges were filed against the 67-year-old businessman, estranged husband of former Sen. Loren Legarda, after he confessed to the shooting of his trusted aide Rafael de las Alas in his Makati City office building on Jan. 12. Leviste has yet to talk about the incident, although his lawyers claimed the shooting was an act of self-defense.

The defense team believes the review was "only a farce and tailor-made to persecute, not prosecute, the accused for the crime of murder" and, should it proceed, would amount to "injustice" against Leviste.

As a last-ditch attempt to stop the reinvestigation, Manuel Singson, Leviste's lawyer, asked Alameda to direct Velasco to defer the review until the judge had ruled on his client's appeal. But Alameda left it up to Velasco to decide whether or not to push through with the hearing, as the prosecution pointed out that the court's approval of the review effectively remanded the case to the DOJ.

Before he did so however, the judge questioned Velasco's issuance of subpoenas to Leviste, the private complainant, witnesses and investigators for a Jan. 31 hearing at the DOJ even before the prosecution asked the court to allow a review of the case.

Velasco retorted that he didn't know the information had already been filed in court.

The subpoenas were sent on Jan. 22, two days before the court issued an order granting a reinvestigation of the case.

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Pasay City's Peewee seeks reinstatement

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DISMISSED PASAY MAYOR WENCESLAO "Peewee" Trinidad has asked Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno to reinstate him as the city's chief executive beginning Feb. 1.

In a letter to Puno, Trinidad pointed out that the Court of Appeals last week ordered that the six-month preventive suspension order issued against him by the Ombudsman be reduced to five months. The five-month period ends today.

"I believe that it is not only our right, but our obligation under the law and in recognition of the people's voice that has elected us into office, to reassume office beginning Feb. 1," Trinidad said.

He requested Puno to assist in the "smooth turnover" of functions and duties between him and "acting Mayor Allan Panaligan."

As for the second order from the Ombudsman which effectively dismissed him from government service, Trinidad said that as long as his motion for reconsideration is pending before the court, the order should not be implemented.

"In other words, the fact that the Ombudsman Act gives parties the right to appeal its decision should generally carry with it the stay of these decisions pending appeal. Otherwise, the essential nature of these judgments as being appealable would be rendered nugatory," he said, quoting a court ruling similar to his case.

Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto and 10 city councilors were suspended for six months beginning last September for approving allegedly anomalous garbage contracts.

METROBRIEFS

Man dies in train mishap

A MAN out for an early morning stroll yesterday died when he was run over by a northbound train of the Philippine National Railways in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Police said Ali Dimaporo was walking along the railroad tracks in Purok 6 at around 5:30 a.m. yesterday with a friend, Rey Cabral when the oncoming train hit the two men. Dimaporo died on the spot while Cabral was rushed to the Ospital ng Muntinlupa for treatment. Dimaporo's body was brought to Maharlika Village, Taguig City later. It was still unclear whether or not the two men were drunk when the incident happened.

Julie M. Aurelio

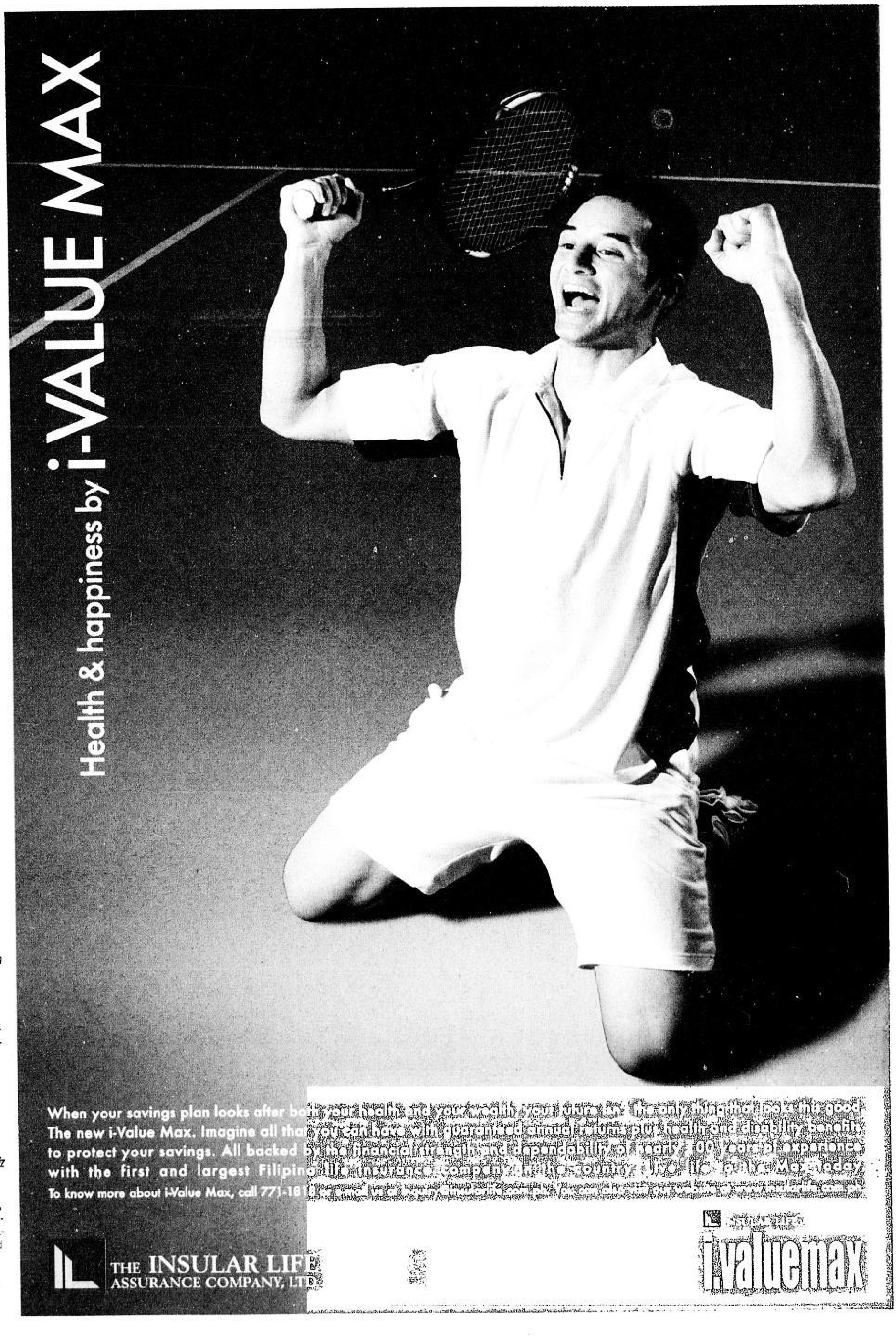
Cop shot dead in Quiapo

A POLICE officer was shot dead by two unidentified men in Quiapo, Manila the other night. The victim was identified as PO2 Alinorden Sarip Lanto of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group assigned to the First Police Center for Aviation Security Group NIA Airport, Pasay City. Lanto was reportedly a nephew of Justice Undersecretary Macabangkit Lanto. The victim died on the spot from two gunshot wounds on the left side of his head and the left portion of his chest from a .45 caliber pistol. The assailants escaped after taking the victim's money and pistol.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Tribute for Popoy

A TRIBUTE for the late Ernesto "Popoy" Valencia, 1970 Philippine Collegian editor in chief and leading stalwart of the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan during the First Quarter Storm will be held on Feb. 1, 6 p.m. at the College of Social Work and Community Development, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Valencia, 56, member of the UP Pi Omicron Fraternity, nationalist economist, professor and writer died Jan. 25 of cardiac arrest.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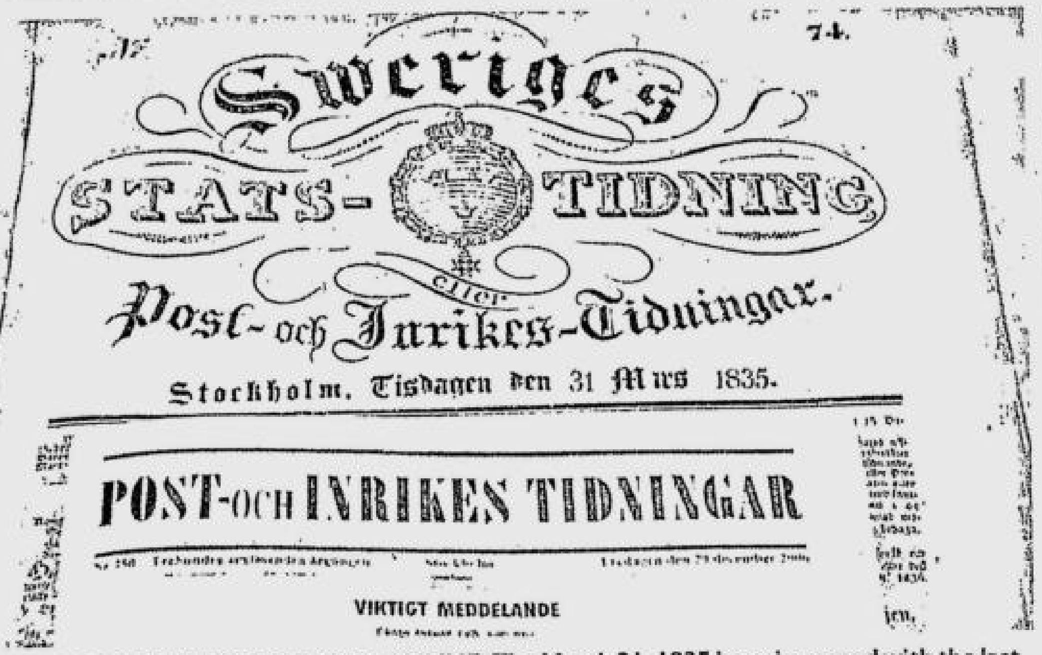

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VIKTIGT MEDDELANDE

WORLD'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER GOES ONLINE. The March 31, 1835 issue is opened with the last printed one of the world's oldest newspaper, Sweden's Post och Inrikes Tidningar, founded in 1645 by Queen Christina, Jan. 15 in Stockholm. The paper has now entered the digital age by ending its run as a print publication and opting to be published exclusively on the Internet. AFP

North Korea nuclear talks to resume Feb. 8

BEIJING—SIX-PARTY TALKS aimed at persuading North Korea to scrap its nuclear weapons are to resume in Beijing on Feb. 8, China said on Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said Beijing wanted fresh talks to develop practical, initial steps to implement a September 2005 joint statement that committed Pyongyang to dismantling its nuclear weapons in return for economic and security assurances.

"We hope that all sides will continue to display a positive attitude, strengthen dialogue, enhance trust and as early as possible fully implement the joint statement and realize the goal of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula," Jiang told reporters.

The talks group the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and host China. The last round in December, two months after Pyongyang raised the stakes by conducting a nuclear test, produced no breakthrough. Previous sessions ended in rancor.

"The six-party talks are a gradual, complex process," Jiang said, urging negotiators to be pragmatic.

After China's announcement, a Japanese official suggested the onus was on North Korea to foresake its nuclear ambitions.

"Our government will closely coordinate with countries concerned, including the United States and China, and strongly urge North Korea to take concrete action towards abandoning its nuclear programs," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Suzuki told reporters in Tokyo.

The announcement of a new round follows meetings in Berlin between chief US negotiator Christopher Hill and his North Korean counterpart, Kim Kye-gwan, raising hopes for progress this time.

"These contacts have laid the foundation for the six-party talks resuming as early as possible," Jiang said.

Hill told Reuters on Monday North Korea's commitment to give up its nuclear weapons was "strong" and Washington would not allow other issues, including a dispute over UN Development Program money, to undercut a nuclear deal.

Hill declined to reveal details of what might emerge from the Beijing talks but said "we have the basis of a good six-party meeting." He leaves this weekend for talks in Seoul and Tokyo.

The last session of six-party talks bogged down over Pyongyang's complaints about a US financial crackdown that led to Macau freezing $24 million in North Korean accounts and many other banks curtailing business with the North.

The US Treasury said in September 2005 that Macau's Banco Delta Asia had helped Pyongyang to launder earnings from counterfeit US dollars and illicit drugs.

On Tuesday, Daniel Glaser, US deputy assistant Treasury secretary for terrorist financing and financial crimes, was due to resume talks with North Korean officials in Beijing about untangling the financial dispute.

Russian negotiator Alexander Losyukov told RIA Novosti news agency that he would go to Beijing with "cautious optimism." "The agreement to hold a new round shows some of the participants have changed their position in a positive way," he said.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Russian nuke plant shut down

MOSCOW—An unspecified safety problem prompted an emergency shutdown at a Russian nuclear power plant, but no increase in radiation levels were reported, federal officials said Tuesday. The incident occurred at the first unit of the Balakovo plant around 11:15 p.m. Monday, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The plant, which is located near the Volga River city of Saratov, about 700 km southeast of Moscow, has four 1,000-megawatt pressurized water reactors. Nuclear regulators said the problem had been located and corrected Tuesday morning and could be restarted later in the day. *AP*

35 killed in Nigeria road mishap

KANO, NIGERIA—A truck has crashed in northern Nigeria's Yobe state killing at least 35 people and seriously injuring another 37, state media said Tuesday. Radio Nigeria Kaduna said the accident on Monday in Dagauda, near the main town of Potiskum, occurred when a burst tire caused the truck loaded with cement as well as 72 people to veer off the road. The report said the bodies of the dead had been deposited at the government hospital in Potiskum where the injured were receiving treatment. Trucks are a popular way of getting around for people in the region who want to avoid paying bus fares. *AFP*

Another bird flu case hits Japan

TOKYO—Another suspected outbreak of bird flu has hit southern Japan, a news report said Tuesday, amid growing concern about a string of cases at the country's poultry farms. The latest outbreak occurred in the southwestern prefecture of Miyazaki, which saw two separate bird flu cases earlier this month, Kyodo News agency said, citing unidentified government officials. Officials were separately trying to determine whether the virus that killed dozens of chickens in the western prefecture of Okayama was the deadly H5N1 variety. The H5N1 was pinpointed in the earlier Miyazaki outbreaks, which forced the slaughter of thousands of chickens in the region. *AP*

Court rejects compensation suit

TOKYO—A court rejected a compensation suit filed against the Japanese government by 40 Japanese who were abandoned in China as children after Tokyo's defeat in World War II, officials said Tuesday. The Tokyo District Court rejected demands for financial compensation for the displaced Japanese, according to a court official who refused to be named, citing protocol. The plaintiffs said the government was responsible for the decades-long delay in their return to Japan and for failing to provide adequate support when they came back. The returnees were seeking 33 million yen ($270,000) each in compensation, according to Kyodo News agency. *AP*

Hubble's camera crippled

WASHINGTON—THE HUBBLE Space Telescope's main and most powerful camera was crippled by an electrical short-circuit, losing two-thirds of its capacity, Nasa officials said Monday.

The Advanced Camera for Survey, or ACS, was installed in 2002 when US astronauts made their latest repair and maintenance mission to the orbiting telescope.

"We believe that the wide field channel and high resolution channel on the ACS-instruments are no longer available to us," said Preston Burch, the Hubble program manager.

"Obviously we are very disappointed by the latest event because of the popularity of ACS among astronomers. The telescope is a very robust facility and still has significant science capability."

Burch blamed the failure on an electrical short that "did not impact ACS's primary electronic" system.

Orbiting 575 kilometers above the Earth, the 16-year-old Hubble has enabled scientists to better measure the age and origins of the universe, observe distant supernovas, and identify and study bodies in and outside the solar system. *AFP*

Study says Parkinson's disease to rise sharply, particularly in Asia

WASHINGTON—THE NUMBER of people affected by the debilitating nervous system disease Parkinson's will double over 25 years in the world's largest countries, with the biggest growth in Asia, scientists said in a new report.

A team lead by University of Rochester (New York) neurologist Ray Dorsey said that by 2030 the population suffering Parkinson's in the 15 largest countries will grow to 8.7 million, from 4.1 million currently.

The study, published in the Jan. 30 edition of Neurology, said the key factor in the growth of Parkinson's is aging populations.

The fastest growth of the disease will be in developing Asia, with an estimated five million people suffering from Parkinson's in China alone by 2030.

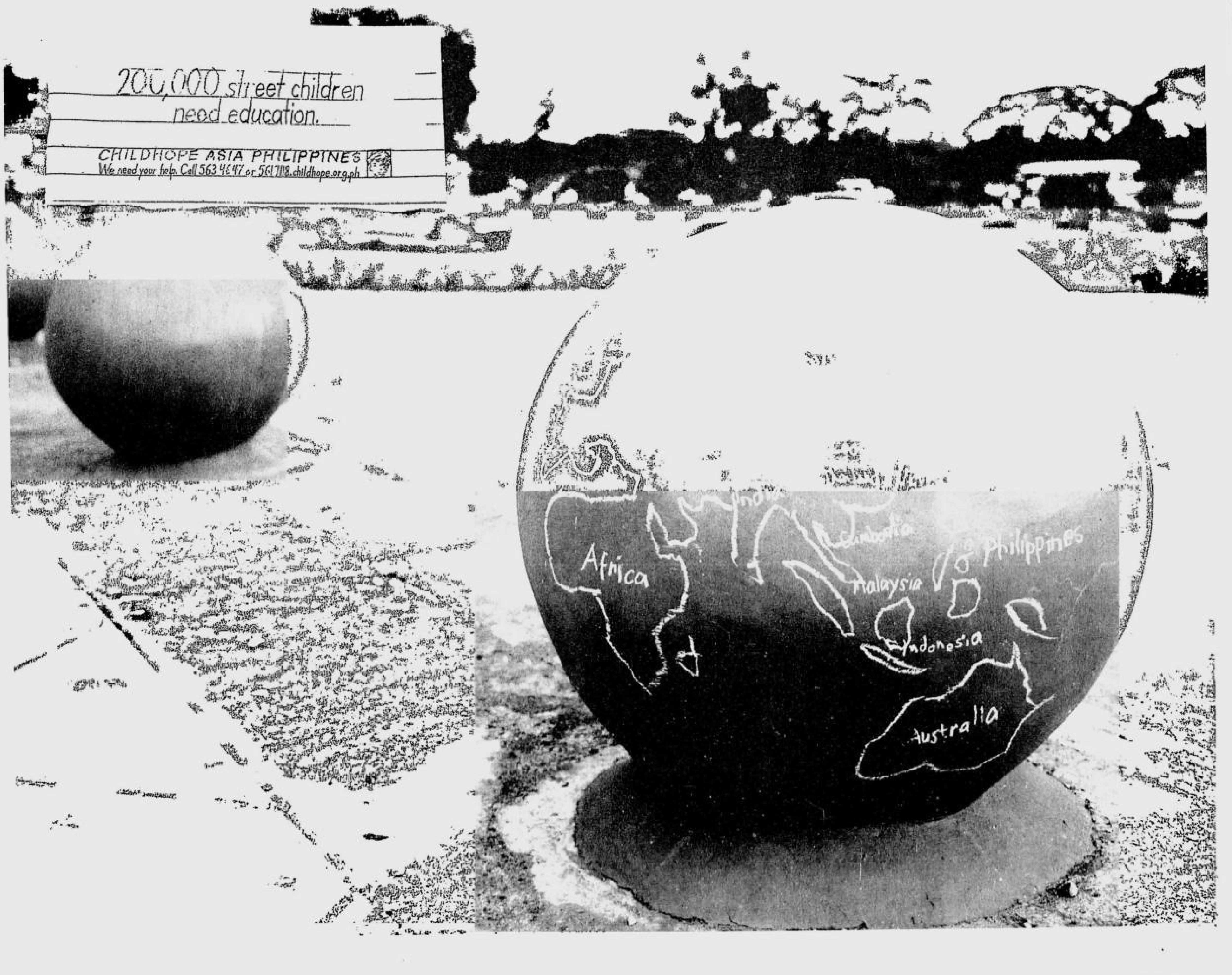
"The bulk of the growth in Parkinson's disease in the next 25 years will not be in the United States and Europe but in other places, namely China, where Parkinson's may not be viewed as a major public health problem," said Dorsey.

"Moreover, this growth will occur in societies where there is very limited infrastructure in place to diagnose individuals, much less address their medical needs or the societal impact," he said in a statement.

The disease, in which the central nervous system degenerates, rises in frequency among people over 65.

Dorsey said the increase will place large burdens on health care systems.

AFP



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    B8 L8 Don Aniceto St. Garcia Heights, Phase 1 Sucat, Parañaque City **Alabang**
38. Oscar Mendoza
    323 Banay Banay, Lipa City, Batangas **Batangas**
39. Phelpa Mainit
    32 Charlemagne St., Italia 500, BFRV, Las Piñas City **Alabang**
40. Pioneer Hi-Bred Phils.
    24 F Antel Global Corp.Center, Ortigas, Pasig City **Pasig**
41. Rizalyn Agustin
    Blk 10 Lot 20, Pines St., Meadowwood Exec Village, Bacoor, Cavite City **Cavite**
42. Roberto Sanchez
    2557 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila **Makati**
43. Rolando Simblante
    Brgy. Laray, Southern Leyte **ICI**
44. Mr. Romeo Tapuyan
    Palm Hills Subd., Basak, Mandaue City **ICI**
45. Ron Jacob Tacandong
    Poblacion Salay, Misamis Oriental **CDO**
46. Rosana Teresa Azores
    42 A. Bonifacio St.Brgy VD, San Pablo City **San Pablo**
47. Rural Bank of Mercedes
    Tallungan Reina Merecedes, Isabela **Isabela**
48. Socorro Solivio
    16 Pension St., SSS Homes, North Fairview, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
49. Tomas Bautista
    NC Compound, Villasis Santiago City, Isabela **Isabela**
50. Wilfredo Nunez
    Lot 20 Vista Amaya 1, Tanza, Cavite City **Cavite**

JVC Digital Cybercam

1. Allan Moral
   Basak Hanger, Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City **ICI**
2. Bongbong Pineda
   Miramonte Subdivision Brgy Tinamnan, Lucban Quezon **San Pablo**
3. Crisanto Cruz
   Mapalasan Gabihan, San Ildefonso, Bulacan **Bulacan**
4. Daisy Sulit
   2/F Roscar Bldg, 81 EDSA, Mandaluyong City **Commonwealth**
5. Estrelita Manzanillo
   Blk 7 Lt 7 Phase 3, Sto Nino Vill Tunasan, Muntinlupa City **Alabang**
6. Fermin Palileo
   Lt 15 Blk 3, Genesis St., Camella Classic, Pilar Village, Las Piñas, Metro Manila **Manila**
7. Fernando Aguilar
   0535 Camia St., Pineda Subd. Dau Mabalacat, Pampanga **Pampanga**
8. Ignacio Langcay
   48 Annafunan East, Tuguegarao, Cagayan **Isabela**
9. Jessie Nazareno
   979 Aurora Blvd. Quezon City **Manila**
10. Jesusa F Galang
    602 Sun Valley St., Phil Holiday Homes, San Pablo City **Alabang**
11. Juanito Cervantes
    12 Pegasus St., Crestview Homes Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo City **Pasig**
12. Lilia Garperio
    B4 L10 Royalville Subd., Sta. Elena, Marikina City **Pasig**
13. Trinitas Canlas
    40 Luna St., New Intramuros Village, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
14. Manolito Blando
    Zone 3 San Mariano, Isabela **Isabela**
15. Maria Luz Pinat
    Blk 14 Lot 10-11 La Aldea, Timpolok, Lapu-Lapu, Cebu City **ICI**
16. Melvin Almasol
    Blk 7 Lt11, Cabal Plan Village, Digos City **Davao**
17. Miguel Comique
    Cawayanon M. Fortich, Bukidnon **CDO**
18. Nenita Dechino
    Purok Purcrada Brgy. Montevista, Bacolod **Bacolod**
19. Serafin Espino
    5 Edmund St., Pleasantview Subd, Tandang Sora, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
20. Vicente Lina Jr.
    Sto Rosario Parish, Sto Rosario Highway, Bulacan **Bulacan**

IPod 80 gb player

1. Arsenia Amigo
   2nd Flr. Maybank Philippines, Legaspi Towers 300 Condominium, Roxas Blvd, Makati City **Makati**
2. Aurora Concepcion
   8 Attila St., Kingsville Subd., Antipolo City **Manila**
3. Carla dela Torre
   15 Anvile Subd, Maysan, Valenzuela City **Bulacan**
4. Cristina Instrella
   026 JP Rizal Brgy. Comembo, Makati City **Pasig**
5. Daiselyn Arenas
   166 Capt. J Caingin St. Maragondon, Cavite City **Cavite**
6. Danilo Caliwag
   27 Kanlaon St., Mandaluyong City **Pasig**
7. Efren Ignacio Surio
   4670 Sta. Ines, Plaridel, Bulacan **Bulacan**
8. Erlinda Derramas
   25 Graphite St. Twin River Subd. Commonwealth, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
9. Francisco Llavore Jr.
   Macalva Norte, Agoo, La Union **Pangasinan**
10. Josefina Hernandez
    2513 Isagani St., Sta Cruz Manila **QA**
11. Jude Kho
    Ekoy Zayco Village, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental **Bacolod**
12. Leonardo S. Cervantes
    L18 B2 Thalia St., Crestulen Homes Subd. Mayamot, Antipolo City **Pasig**
13. Loida Estrella Quinto
    6 Doña Fronie Ave., San Fermin, Cauayan City **Isabela**
14. Magdaleno Dalawampu
    27 San Diego St. Bauan, Batangas City **Batangas**
15. Marcial Gonzales
    40 Narcissus St., Roxas Dist. Quezon City **QA**
16. Marsha Tenorio
    787 Nueva de Febrero St., Mandaluyong City **Pasig**
17. Nelia D. Agag
    16 Diamond St., Greenpark, Cainta City **QA**
18. Nepomuceno Rosel
    B9 L28 Estrella Homes, Caloocan City **QA**
19. New Bran Yek Commercial
    Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental **Bacolod**
20. Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd
    1043 Aurora Blvd. Quezon City **Pasig**

Oakley Eyewear

1. Allonaus Crucero
   Unit 507 Bldg. K Bonafacio Heights, Taguig City **Cavite**
2. Alvin D. Chiu
   Cor. Moonstone St.City Heights, Bacolod City **Bacolod**
3. Anlana B. Clarion
   Monkayo, Compostela Valley, Cagayan de Oro City **CDO**
4. Anecito D. Villaluz, Jr.
   Don Emilio Village, Kabankalan City **Bacolod**
5. Arlene B. Escollar
   Hillside Subd. Maysilingan, Bacolod City **Bacolod**
6. Arthur D Pascual, Jr.
   97 K-5th Kamuning, Quezon City **Pasig**
7. Aurelia E. Lat
   855 G. Leviste St Malvar, Batangas **Batangas**
8. Beda R. Espineda
   10 Aster St., West Fairview, Quezon City **Pasig**
9. Clayton Omaking
   B15 L9 Sto. Nino St., Maligaya Park Subd., Caloocan City **Commonwealth**
10. Daniel B Rivero
    Capitol Site, Butuan City **CDO**
11. Dante B. Ibarra
    11 Bailis San Miguel, Bulacan **Cabanatuan**
12. Dorothy Joy Lansang
    2001 Barkshire St., Brookside Hills, Cainta Rizal **Cavite**
13. Eddie V. Go
    40 Sobrecary St., Davao City **Davao**
14. Editha D. Azucena
    Pandayan Meycauayan, Bulacan **Bulacan**
15. Eduardo S. Boquilon
    35 Patag Barangay Hall, Cagayan de Oro City **CDO**
16. Emiliano B. Santos
    531 Matimbo, Malolos City, Bulacan **Bulacan**
17. Emma Calindoy
    77 Vill. East Avenue, Village East Executive Homes, Cainta Rizal **Pasig**
18. George R. Lectura
    15 Violeta Avenue, Antipolo City **Pasig**
19. Grace V. Villarrucis
    St. Francis Subd Silay, Bacolod City **Bacolod**
20. HDMF / Ms. Rosana A. Fernandez
    7th Flr. The Atrium of Makati, Makati Avenue, Makati City **Makati**
21. Hector Regalado
    Blk. 3A Lot 32 Sta.Catalina St. Eroreco, Bacolod City **Bacolod**
22. Jesus S. Gutllerez
    B19 Lot 6 Phase 3 Citta Italia, Imus Cavite **Cavite**
23. Joel Alcazar
    Palanas Lemery, Batangas **Batangas**
24. Joseph L. Ramos
    408 F Calderon, Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila **Makati**
25. Joyreen P. Napolu
    Blk 19 Paglaum Village, Bacolod City **Bacolod**
26. JSG Construction
    Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas **Batangas**
27. Leonora D. Copiaco
    470 San Mateo St.Tuktukan, Guiguinto, Bulacan **Bulacan**
28. Marie Lynette Pagatpatan
    107-A Mendez Rd. Baesa, Novaliches, Quezon City **QA**
29. Mary Grace B Flores
    96 L. de Leon St. Siniloan, Laguna **Batangas**
30. Noel R Corbaduna
    Carpa Sabang, Baliwag, Bulacan **Bulacan**
31. Paul Anthony F. Gokioco
    2 Ruben Jr. St. Sauyo, Novaliches, Quezon City **QA**
32. Pilarcita Roa Pearson
    Feroza Drive, Tibasak, Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City **CDO**
33. Reignald N. Rosas
    #3 Galler Heights Subd., Caloocan City **Edsa**
34. Richie G. Co
    Villa Esfer Don Grevacio, Quijada St. Guadalupe, Cebu City **ICI**
35. Rodolfo Fernandez Callo
    307 Victorino St. Brgy Pendor, Dinalupihan, Bataan **Pampanga**
36. Rodolfo T. Pacarde
    250 Ruby St., Phase 1, Dna. Luisa Village, Matina, Davao City **Davao**
37. Rogelio Sl Poblete
    Blk 20 Lot 15 Wonderland Iguig, Cagayan **Isabela**
38. Susana G. Escamilla
    Milkyway St., Puentebella Subd. Bacolod City **Bacolod**
39. Tam King Fong
    103 L. San Diego St., Canumay, Valenzuela City **Edsa**
40. Victor Nunez
    210 Dahlia St. Green Village Concepcion, Tarlac City 2316 **Pampanga**

Victorinox Trek packs

1. Alexander J. Almendras
   Lot 25 Blk 3 Meadowpark Subd., Molino 4 Bacoor, Cavite City **Alabang**
2. Allan B. Acupinpin
   155-M Dr Lazcano Ext. Kamuning, Quezon City **Pasig**
3. Angelito / Lorna ReyesLa Joya de Sta. Rosa Dita, Sta. Rosa Laguna **Makati**
4. Arnel V. Ramirez
   467 Poblacion 1 Gerona, Tarlac City **Pampanga**
5. Bienvenido / Marianita Hernandez
   450 Brgy. San Juan, San Pablo City **San Pablo**
6. Bon Crisostomo Bargas
   Pob. Tabuk, Kalinga **Isabela**
7. Carlito M. Abong
   F. Pellas St., Tololo District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol **ICI**
8. Cesar Isleta
   77 Jerusalem St. Multinational Village, Parañaque City **Alabang**
9. City Savings Bank
   Iznan Solis St., Iloilo City **ICI**
10. Daniel B. Llangco
    1785 C. Panlilio St. Villa Dolores Subd., Sto. Domingo, Angeles City **Alabang**
11. Epifanio G. Ceralde
    #10 Zarate St.Poblacion San Fabian, Pangasinan **Pangasinan**
12. Estrellita F. Pineda
    Kalinisan St. Pamana Homes Bucal, Calamba City **Batangas**
13. Eva Marie A. Olympia
    #30 Teddy III St., Tierra Pura Homes, Tandang Sora, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
14. Feliciardo A. Salazar
    Payapa Subd. Galicia, Mendez, Cavite City **Cavite**
15. Flora Quiambao
    Purok 4, Bo. Sta. Cruz, Gapan City **Cabanatuan**
16. Henry Velarde
    Apo Esquivel, Jaen, Nueva Ecija **Cabanatuan**
17. Mr. Herteo Dondriano
    Blk. 10 Lot 14 Calleya St. Villa Primarosa Imus, Cavite City **Cavite**
18. Hilda R. De Leon
    Lot 9 Block 9 RPJ Village Matina Aplaya, Davao City **CDO**
19. Jaime S. Agoncillo
    271 Purok 5 Tikay, Malolos City **Bulacan**
20. Jose Carlito Villafuerte
    934 Daang Baka St., Maysantol, Bulacan **Bulacan**
21. Juancho Corpuz
    16 Salido St. San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City **Edsa**
22. Leah S. Ocampo
    17 Red Palm St., Pacita Complex 2, San Pedro Laguna **Alabang**
23. Maribel G. Sta. Ana
    Bunlo Bocaue, Bulacan **Bulacan**
24. Marlon Aguirre
    B14 L10 Nehemian St., Camella Homes Classic, Las Piñas City **Alabang**
25. Marlon C. Pilante
    #156 Bldg. 9 F5JWI Ortigas, Pasig City **Makati**
26. Marlyn C. Pajo
    Cor. Don Juana Esteves St., Legaspi City **Pasig**
27. Martin H. Fortes, Jr.
    3138 Urrutia Ave., Tanada Subd., Valenzuela City **QA**
28. Maximo S. Suansing
    B26 L32 Cedar St., Greenbreeze Village, Langkaan 1, Dasmariñas Cavite City **Cavite**
29. Melchor H. Baingbing
    10 Emerald St., Gold Hill Homes Novaliches, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
30. Mithelyn Olarve
    B8 L11 Winllow St.Southview Homes, Pacita Complex, San Pedro Laguna **Alabang**
31. Myris C. Sanchez
    Blk 17 Lot 36 Sunriser Village Llano Rd. Novaliches, Quezon City **Commonwealth**
32. Norma Noble
    #198 Pres. Quirino St. Sto.Niño Cogon, Cagayan de Oro City **CDO**
33. Pastor S. Rivera
    #8 Hyacinth St. Don Juan Bay View Subd. Sucat, Parañaque City **Alabang**
34. Pepe M. Sipan
    31 A. Cruz St., San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City **QA**
35. Presidential Anti-Graft Commission
    2nd Flr. SAAC Bldg. UP Compound, Commonwealth, Quezon City **Pasig**
36. Ramon Clarete
    BF Homes, Quezon City **Bulacan**
37. Ronaldo Pascual
    161 Manalad St.,Sto. Cristo Sur, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija **Cabanatuan**
38. Virginia P. Ramos
    Blk. 94 Lot 6 Ph 3A Mabuhay Homes, Daranga Binangonan, Rizal **Pasig**
39. Wendy H. Tan
    Bag-ong Daan, Yati Liloan, Cebu City **ICI**
40. Wenifreda Domingo
    Bagnos Aurora, Isabela **Isabela**

Samsonite Sahora Bright Luggage Bags

1. ABS CBN
   8th Floor Bldg. Cor. Paseo De Roxas Makati City **Alabang**
2. Adolfo Q. Rosales Jr.
   2428 Anahaw St., VGHS Concepcion Grande, Naga City **Makati**
3. Aileen L. Tavarro
   L2 B2 Camia Floval Homes Subd. 1 Oton, Iloilo City **Edsa**
4. Aldwin D. Flores
   #35 Sulu St., Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City **Alabang**
5. Alexander A. Rodriguez
   Buso-buso Laurel, Batangas **Batangas**
6. Alexis Rinoso A. Viado
   275 Alac San Quintin, Pangasinan **Pangasinan**
7. Aliola Balindong
   Central Terminal Crossing, Calamba City **Batangas**
8. Allan R. Manansala / Lourdes B. Manansala
   J. Luna St. Tabing Ilog, Bagac, Bataan **Pampanga**
9. Allan T. Rodas
   Purok Green, Tampakan, South Cotabato **CDO**
10. Alona Mendoza
    187 Mabini St., Bagumbayan, Balanga City, Bataan **Pampanga**
11. Amelisa V. Marcelo
    50-S M. Apostol St., Brgy Santiago, San Antonio, Zambales **Pampanga**
12. Amina A. Simon
    #56 Armel III, Banaba, San Mateo, Rizal **QA**
13. Ana Lisa G Sy
    #5 Sampaguita Rd., Espinos Village, Bacolod **Bacolod**
14. Ana Lucia S. Rifol
    Dona Mercedes Vill. Malhala, Meycauayan, Bulacan **QA**
15. Angelina Vinluan
    9 Pallas Binmaley, Pangasinan **Pangasinan**
16. Antonio T. Santiago, Jr.
    229 San Isidro II Paombong, Bulacan **Bulacan**
17. Arnie R. De Guzman
    Encarnacion Subdivision Sto. Nino 1st, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija **Pasig**
18. Arwin Mansit
    San Jose, Sto. Tomas, Batangas **Batangas**
19. Atanacio G. Gonzalvo
    Brgy. Liwayway, Odiongan, Romblon **Batangas**
20. Jayson Carl C. Buot
    Blk. 55 Lot 14 Xavier Heights Subd., Cagayan De Oro **CDO**
21. Benigno L. Palamos
    11B Sapphire St., Greenheights, Parañaque City **Makati**
22. Bethuel B. Sarabia
    0968 Dahlia St., Aliko Subd., Malolos Bulacan **Bulacan**
23. Beverly O. Baron
    021 Punta, Calamba City **Makati**
24. Cesaria R. Lim
    Matingain I, Lemery, Batangas **Batangas**
25. Clark Cecil P. Tiu
    Brgy Alac, San Quintin, Pangasinan **Pampanga**
26. Cresilda V. Garcia
    Blk 24 Lot 22 Phase 3 Landmass Park Subd. Biga Tanza, Cavite City **Cavite**
27. Crisanto De Leon
    187 Dampol, Plaridel Bulacan **Bulacan**
28. Department of Agriculture RFO IX c/o Vicente Gazmen
    Gen. Vicente Alvarez St., Zamboanga City **CDO**
29. Dionisio C. Perez
    Blk. 6 Lot 4 Silver Hill St., Rainbow Homes I, San Bartolome, Novaliches Quezon City **Edsa**
30. Dolores V. Carlos
    27 Isaiah St., Sacred Heart Village Novaliches, Quezon City **QA**
31. Doreen P. Castuera
    Olbes St., Vel-Amor Subd., Legaspi City **Makati**
32. Efren B. Llames Jr.
    Purok 6 Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City **Batangas**
33. Efren Manliclic
    198 Mabini St., Rizal Village Paciano Rizal, Calamba City **Batangas**
34. Elenita Qualua Mariano
    088 Governor Joson St., Dampulan, Jaen, Nueva Ecija **Cabanatuan**
35. Elsa A. Alentajan
    #19 Nevada St., Camella Homes, Bacoor, Cavite City **Cavite**
36. Elsa M. Galera
    211 Jacinto St., Catarman, Northern Samar **QA**
37. Encarnacion Concepcion
    287 Purok 6, Brgy Masagana, Pandi, Bulacan **Bulacan**
38. Fernando M. Dinio
    342 Jacinto St., Brgy Agapito, Del Rosario, Angeles City **Pampanga**
39. Francis Jefferson Ang
    San Francisco Calihan, San Pablo City **San Pablo**
40. Gemma Allorie Punzalan
    Zone 4 Dugcal, Camaligan, Camarines Sur **Makati**
41. Genna B. Zuniga
    B10 L18 Phase 9 ACM Seattle St., Alapan 1-A, Imus Cavite City **Alabang**
42. Girlie M. Hilario
    Purok 3 Planas, Porac, Pampanga **Pampanga**
43. Guadalupe A. Macatangay
    #336 Lot 1 Blk. 2 Romarine Subd., San Carlos, Lipa City **Batangas**
44. Helbert M. Cayabyab
    #577 5th St. Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga **Pampanga**
45. Hubert C. Manginsay
    412 Scions Subd., Banilad, Bacong, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental **ICI**
46. Isauro Delos Santos
    2464 Sto. Nino St., Admin, Tala, Caloocan City **Edsa**
47. Jenny Z. Intal
    564 Sampaloc, Apalit, Pampanga **Pampanga**
48. Jerry A. Caoile
    Steeltown Sta. Elena, Iligan City **CDO**
49. Jerwin A. Generoso
    B1 L32 A Peace St., Saint Catherine Subd., Brgy.San Isidro Sucat, Parañaque City **Alabang**
50. Joel V. Villostas
    580 Bulong, Taal, Batangas **Batangas**
51. Jomark Mhdse Sales c/o Mr. Patrio Tan
    04-17A Fernando St. Marulas, Valenzuela City **Edsa**
52. Jonathan Flores
    Skyline Subd., Davao City **Davao**
53. Jose Vicente Dimaculangan
    #39 Saratoga St., Alabang 400 Village, Muntinlupa City **Alabang**
54. Josephine D. Alarin
    #308 Sto Tomas, Subic, Zambales **Pampanga**
55. Juanito P. Mendoza
    0588 JP Laurel St. Aya Talisay, Batangas **Batangas**
56. Ken Oosting
    Tu-od Manticao, Misamis Oriental **CDO**
57. Leah Marie Babasa
    19-A Uranus Ext. Project 6, Quezon City **Edsa**
58. Lily A. Baylosis
    213 Seafront Llamson Roxas Blvd., Manila **Manila**
59. Linda Yang Ong
    R-2104 818 Gandara St., Sta. Cruz, Manila **Manila**
60. Ma. Antonia S. Reyes
    116 Tandang Sora Ave., Tandang Sora, Quezon City **QA**
61. Maria Luz C. Santos
    Blk. 33 Lot 4, Villa Angela Balulang, Cagayan de Oro **CDO**
62. Manolito Sales
    Brgy Tangob, Lipa City Batangas **Batangas**
63. Maria Paz L. Koh .
    #5 Proton St., Moonwalk, Las Piñas City **Alabang**
64. Marilou Garcia
    Km. 39 Blk. 53 Lot 31 Pulong Buhangin Sta. Maria, Bulacan **Edsa**
65. Melchor Preclaro
    2433 B. Bonifacio St., Vitas, Tondo Manila **Makati**
66. Morris Elloso
    Bonifacio St., Brgy. Lual, Pob. Mauban, Quezon **San Pablo**
67. Naomie A. Labuga
    Poblacion 4, Clarin, Misamis Occidental 7201 **CDO**
68. Noel Miranda
    Zone 6 Cabalantian Bacolor, Pampanga **Pampanga**
69. Nonilon Flores
    St. Rose Village, Sta. Rosa Laguna **Batangas**
70. Norberto Benares
    Zone 1 Brgy. Handumanan, Bacolod City **ICI**
71. Maripi Obrilo
    329 Aquamarine St., Posadas Vill. Sucat Parañaque **Alabang**
72. Pablo J. Santos
    B. Ople Div. Bulihan Malolos, Bulacan **Edsa**
73. Paul Pascual
    200B Medalle Bldg. Edsa cor. Mc Arthur Ave. Cubao, Quezon City **Makati**
74. Philippine Environmental and Technological FAO c/o Ms. Doris Trinidad
    - Unit 1505 Cityland 10 Tower 2, Makati City **Makati**
75. Plus Builder Inc. c/o Angelina Manimbo
    Unit 5 & 6 NRR Bldg. Bahayang Pagasa, Cavite City **Alabang**
76. Porferio M. Baluran Jr.
    Telaje Tandag, Surigao Del Sur **CDO**
77. Providencio Abragan Sr.
    Aguinaldo St. cor Echiverri St., Iligan City **ICI**
78. Raquel M. Dayan
    Lemon Grass St. Damarces Farm Ville, Groove College, Los Baños Laguna **Batangas**
79. Robert H. Lo
    Brgy. Lara San Fernando City, Pampanga **Pampanga**
80. Robudo Ortiz
    Purok 6, Rosario, Santiago City **Cabanatuan**
81. Ronnie B. Cosico
    B13 L 2 Silcas Vill. Brgy., San Francisco, Biñan Laguna **Alabang**
82. Rosita Pamatian
    1040 Molina Ext. San Antonio, Cavite City **Cavite**
83. Rowena Silang
    Lanatan St., Medistrix Subd. Balayan, Batangas City **Cavite**
84. Silvino Domingo
    Culalabat, Cauayan City **Isabela**
85. Superior Benedictines Incarnate Word
    St. Benedict Monastery P. Ulan, Lipa City, Batangas **Batangas**
86. Teresita M. Broqueza
    Lot 3B Unit Phase 4 Soliven St., Green Heights, Nangka, Marikina City **Bulacan**
87. Vercon M. Buenaflor
    012 Bagbag, Labac, Naic Cavite City **Makati**
88. Victor Aguilar
    B16 L1 Cherry Home II Mamboc, Bacoor, Cavite City **Cavite**
89. Victoria A. Velasquez
    Kumintang Ilaya, Batangas City **Batangas**
90. William L. Floresta
    B7 L1 Loremar Grand Homes, Antipolo City. **QA**

Barbecook Stainless Butler Grill

1. Agnes Celia Cabual
   Alta Tierra, Tiguma, Pagadian City **CDO**
2. Aida Trapal
   118 Cleafer Baesa, Sta Quiteria, Caloocan City **Edsa**
3. Antonio Briton
   912 Bantug Norte, Cabanatuan City **Cabanatuan**
4. Arvin Pua
   Nungnungan II, Cauayan City, Isabela **Isabela**
5. Bernardo Fabula
   15 Cabal St. Aspouat, Taguig **Makati**
6. Cicero Coloma
   Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas Batangas City **Batangas**
7. Dahlia Luna
   189 Gomez St. Pob. Balungao, Pangasinan **Pangasinan**
8. Daniel Sioson
   230 A. Mina St. Mandaluyong City **Makati**
9. Dante Paule Reyes
   15 Roxas St. Dinalupitan, Bataan **Pampanga**
10. Dexter Tsang
    Ipil, Sibugay, Zamboanga City **CDO**
11. Doris Famin
    B14 L12 & 14 P2 Edsa St. Roseville Lanang, Davao City **Davao**
12. Edmundo Abellana
    325 Cattleya Rd. Greenhills Cabancalan, Mandaue City **ICI**
13. Edwin Peralta
    B9 L18 Fortezza, Cabuyao Laguna **Alabang**
14. Evolyn Inday Villarreiz
    63 Amethyst St. Gem Villarreiz, Davao City **Davao**
15. Fe Arcos
    L12 B25 Mauriane Jose, Monterey St. San Mateo Rizal **Pasig**
16. Florencio Uy Jr.
    5th House, Park Ave. Bajada, Davao City **Davao**
17. Francisco Reamuli
    B11 L2 Opal St. Richfield Subd. Bacoor, Cavite **QA**
18. Gerardo Almira
    80 Allarey St. Lucena City **Batangas**
19. Gloria Mahinay
    1787 Bisig 1 Maria Ramos Vill. Abangan Sur, Marilao, Bulacan **Edsa**
20. Haydee Doria
    481 Pandan Ave. Mapandan, Pangasinan **Pangasinan**
21. Jaime Mirasol
    B11 L18 Holts St. Summitville, Muntinlupa City **San Pablo**
22. Jeanelle Castro
    27 A1 Junquera Ext. Cebu City **ICI**
23. John Alovera
    Unit 4 Sario Apartment, Aquarius St. VML Subd. Molo, Iloilo City **Makati**
24. Jose Sison
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Deadly bomb blasts mar Shiites' rituals

BAGHDAD—A BOMB LEFT IN A GARBAGE CAN struck Shiites during ceremonies marking Ashoura on Tuesday in a Kurdish city near the Iranian border, killing at least 13 people and wounding 39, police said.

About an hour later, a suicide bomber blew himself up near the entrance of a Shiite mosque in a predominantly Shiite city to the south, also near the Iranian border. At least 12 people were killed and 40 wounded in that attack, police said.

The first explosion hit at about 11:30 a.m. as scores of Shiites were gathered in downtown Khanaqin performing rituals on the holiest day on the Shiite Islamic calendar, a commemoration of the 7th-century death of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. The major religious festival culminates on Tuesday.

Tuesday's ceremonies marked the climax of the annual 10-day mourning, which commemorates the killing of Imam Hussein in 680 by armies of the Sunni caliph Yazid in the central city of Karbala of present-day Iraq.

Ashoura, which means the tenth in Arabic, falls on the 10th day of the Muslim month of Muharrem and is the culmination of Shiite mourning for their imam's gruesome death.

Tradition holds that Hussein was decapitated and his body mutilated by Yazid's armies.

Police Maj. Idriss Mohammed said at least 13 people were killed and 39 were wounded, adding that most of the victims were Shiite Kurds, who comprise the majority in the city. Most Kurds are Sunni but a minority are Shiite.

The suicide bomber who struck Mandali, which also is near the Iranian border, 100 kilometers northeast of Baghdad, detonated his explosives belt as he was in the midst of about 150 Shiites entering the Ali al-Akbar mosque at about 12:20 p.m., police said.

On Nov. 18, 2005, suicide bombers struck two major mosques in Khanaqin, 140 km northeast of Baghdad close to the Iranian border, killing at least 74 people and damaging the shrines.

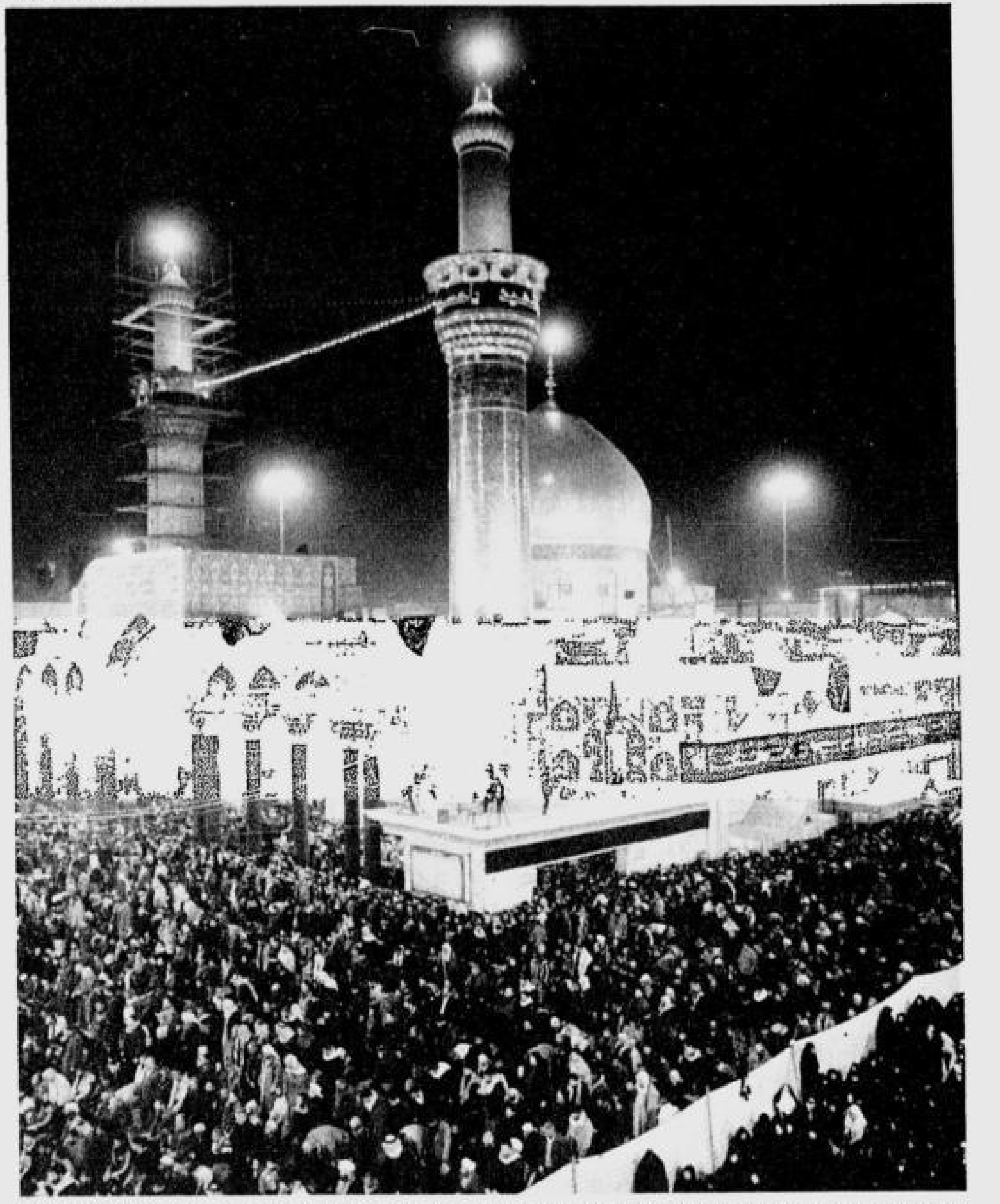
Hundreds of thousands of Shiite Muslims observed the holiest mourning rituals of Ashoura in Karbala under tight security amid fears of attacks by Sunni extremists.

With the streets of Karbala teeming with pilgrims, police said the 10,000-strong security force deployed for the Ashoura ceremonies was on high alert for possible attacks by insurgents.

Security was tightened further after a raging battle on Sunday between security forces and Shiite militants near another holy city, Najaf, which left at least 200 militiamen dead.

"We have orders to search any pilgrim we feel suspicious about and the police are enforcing the law strictly," said Karbala police spokesperson Rahim Mussawi.

AP, AFP



HUNDREDS of thousands of Shiite pilgrims gather late Jan. 29 around Imam Hussein's shrine in the holy city of Karbala. AFP

War casualty total jumps, later revised

FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS, ANYone who consulted the Veterans Affairs Department's website to learn how many American troops had been wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan would have found this number: 50,508.

But on Jan. 10, without explanation, the figure plummeted to 21,649.

Which number is correct? The answer depends on a larger question, the definition of wounded. If the term includes combat or "hostile" injuries inflicted by the enemy, the definition the Pentagon uses, the smaller number would be right.

But if it also applies to injuries from accidents like vehicle crashes and to mental and physical illnesses that developed in the war zone, the meaning that veterans' groups favor, 50,508 would be accurate.

A spokesperson for the veterans' department, Matt Burns, said the change in the count was made simply to correct an error. Burns said the department posted the higher figure by mistake in November, when an employee who was updating the site inadvertently added noncombat injuries listed by the Defense Department.

The previous total on the website was 18,586, strictly for combat injuries. Apparently, no one noticed the sudden leap.

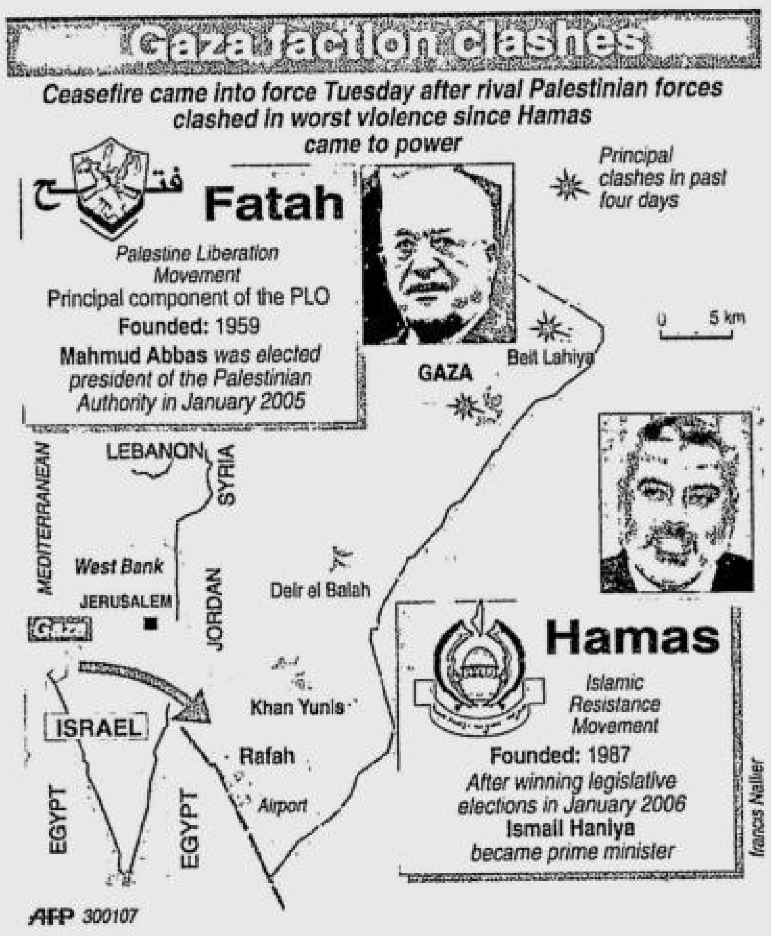
The 50,508 figure caught the attention of the Pentagon when Linda Bilmes of Harvard mentioned it in an opinion article on Jan. 5 in The Los Angeles Times. A few days later, said Bilmes, who teaches public finance, she had a call from Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, challenging the number.

Bilmes explained that she had used the government tally, the one on the "America's Wars" page of the veterans' department website. She faxed him a copy.

A few days later, the number on the website was changed.

NYT

Rival Palestinian factions forge ceasefire deal


Gaza faction clashes
Ceasefire came into force Tuesday after rival Palestinian forces clashed in worst violence since Hamas came to power
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Palestine Liberation Movement
Principal component of the PLO
Founded: 1959
Mahmud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority in January 2005
Principal clashes in past four days
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Khan Yunis
Rafah
Airport
Hamas
Islamic Resistance Movement
Founded: 1987
After winning legislative elections in January 2006
Ismail Haniya
became prime minister
francis Nallier
AFP 300107

GAZA CITY—A CEASEFIRE BETWEEN THE Palestinian ruling party Hamas and its rival Fatah came into force Tuesday as they sought to end four days of vicious factional fighting that left 33 people dead.

Gaza City residents said sporadic gunfire ended shortly before the ceasefire came into force at 3 a.m.

The ceasefire, arranged late on Monday, comes amid increasing international pressure on the Palestinian factions to resolve their differences and form a national unity government, as well as efforts to revive the peace process with Israel.

Palestinian foreign minister Mahmud Zahar announced the ceasefire late on Monday after an agreement was reached by Hamas prime minister Ismail Haniya and Rawhi Fattuh, a representative of Palestinian Fatah president Mahmud Abbas.

In addition to withdrawing their armed men from the streets, the factions agreed to release hostages they have each taken from the other side over recent days. Zahar added that Haniya and Abbas would meet soon to relaunch a dialogue.

The latest bout of violence was the worst since Hamas won a landslide election a year ago, and torpedoed on-and-off talks to broker a power-sharing agreement.

Despite a Saudi offer Sunday to mediate, clashes continued throughout Monday.

Two officers in the mainstream and pro-Fatah security apparatus, a Hamas militant and a civilian died.

On Monday night, a rocket-propelled grenade slammed into the Palestinian national security and police headquarters in Gaza City, causing widespread damage, witnesses and security sources said.

During the four days of bitter fighting, which left around 100 people wounded, the warring factions set up roadblocks and traded gun, anti-rocket and mortar fire throughout Gaza.

Streets became deserted as shopkeepers boarded up shops and civilians retreated to the relative safety of their homes.

Abbas was set to hold talks Tuesday in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip.

Speaking publicly on the latest bout of fighting for the first time, Abbas on Monday described the troubles as "tragic" and insisted that he would not allow the territories to disintegrate into civil war.

In a telephone conversation with Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman, Haniya promised that his Hamas-led government would "make maximum effort to defuse the explosive situation," the cabinet said.

Egyptian security representatives also attended the meeting in Gaza between Haniya and Fattuh.

AFP

Europe resists US on curbing ties with Iran

WASHINGTON—EUROPEAN GOVernments are resisting Bush administration demands that they curtail support for exports to Iran and that they block transactions and freeze assets of some Iranian companies, officials on both sides say. The resistance threatens to open a new rift between Europe and the United States over Iran.

Administration officials say that a new American drive to reduce exports to Iran and cut off its financial transactions is designed to further isolate Iran commercially amid the first signs that global pressure has hurt Iran's oil production and its economy. There are also reports of rising political unrest in Iran.

In December, Iran's refusal to give up its nuclear program led the UN Security Council to impose economic sanctions. Iran's rebuff is based on its contention that its nuclear program is civilian in nature, while the United States and other countries believe Iran plans to make weapons.

At issue now is how the resolution is to be implemented, with Europeans resisting American appeals for quick action, citing technical and political problems related to the heavy European economic ties to Iran and its oil industry.

"We are telling the Europeans that they need to go way beyond what they've done to maximize pressure on Iran," said a senior administration official. "The European response on the economic side has been pretty weak." The American demands and European responses were provided by 10 different officials, including both supporters and critics of the American approach.

One irony of the latest pressure, European and American officials say, is that on their own, many European banks have begun to cut back their transactions with Iran, partly because of a Treasury Department ban on using dollars in deals involving two leading Iranian banks.

American pressure on European governments, as opposed to banks, has been less successful, administration and European officials say.

The main targets are Italy, Germany, France, Spain, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden and Britain, all with extensive business dealings with Iran, particularly in energy. Administration officials say, however, that Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, current head of the European Union, has tried to be responsive.

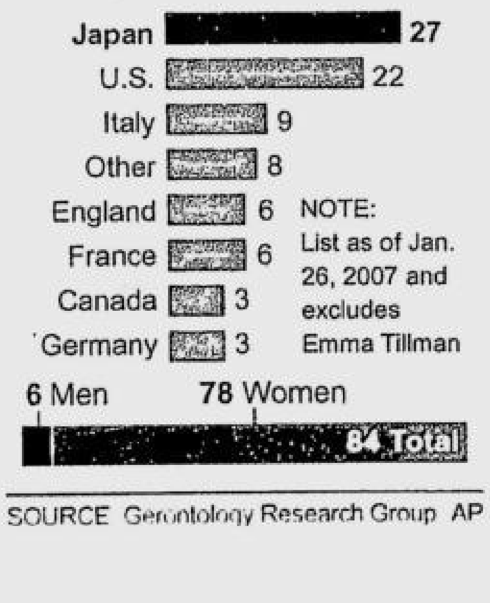
New York Times News Service

114-year-old Japanese becomes world's oldest person

World's elders

There are currently 84 validated living supercentenarians, a person who lives to be 110 or older, in the world today, most are women.

Living supercentenarians, by country born



NOTE: List as of Jan. 26, 2007 and excludes Emma Tillman

SOURCE Gerontology Research Group AP

TOKYO—YONE MINAGAWA, A 114-YEAR-old Japanese woman who counts eating and sleeping well as her hobbies, on Tuesday celebrated becoming the world's oldest person with a Western-style lunch.

Minagawa was told she had taken over the longevity crown from Emma Faust Tillman, 114, the daughter of freed American slaves who died Sunday just days after being named the world's oldest person.

Minagawa, who was born on Jan. 4, 1893, joined her hands to say a prayer when she was informed Tuesday.

"Thank you, thank you," Minagawa said, as quoted by the staff at her nursing home in Fukuchi, a mountain town in southern Fukuoka prefecture.

Minagawa, a widow, needs a wheelchair but can maneuver it around her floor of the nursing home by herself.

"Ms Minagawa is in good health, speaks well and clears her plates three times a day," said Izumi Mori, who is in charge of taking care of her at the Keijuen nursing home.

There was no special ceremony at the nursing home on Tuesday, "but she had bread, stew, salad and dessert for lunch today after hearing the news," Mori said by telephone.

On her birthday earlier this month, Minagawa blew out some of the candles on her birthday cake, the staff said.

Despite her advanced age, Minagawa has continued to eat sweets—her favorite being *manju*, a Japanese confection filled with red bean paste.

"Ms Minagawa loves sweets, especially *manju*. When I asked what the secret of her long life is, she said that it's eating well and sleeping well. In fact, she said her hobby is sleeping," Mori said.

Minagawa also loves music. She used to play the *shamisen*, a three-stringed Japanese version of a guitar, and likes to move her body to music with her friends at the nursing home, staff said.

More than 28,000 Japanese are 100 years or older, up from a mere 1,000 at the start of the 1980s as improved health habits increased the population's life expectancy, the government said last year.

Japanese longevity is often attributed to eating the country's traditional healthy food, despite the hectic lifestyle many lead in the big cities.

AFP

JAPAN'S oldest person Yone Minagawa blows off some of the candles on her birthday cake with a nursing home official as they celebrate her 114th birthday in Fukuchi town in Fukuoka prefecture, southwestern Japan, Jan. 4. REUTERS

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SBP to BAP: Don't be a hindrance

Boycott shows who's against unification, says Eala; PBA rescinds MOA

By June Navarro

THE SAMAHANG BASKETBOL NG PILIPINAS (SBP) APPEALED to the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) to stop being a "hindrance to the unity efforts" currently in motion and join the congress aimed at unifying all basketball stakeholders.

The appeal came at the heels of the BAP's decision to boycott the Unity Congress the SBP will convene at the Dusit Hotel on Feb. 5.

"This goes to show which party really doesn't want to abide by the provisions of the Tokyo accord," SBP spokesperson and PBA commissioner Noli Eala told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"I sincerely hope they change their mind and stop being a hindrance to the unity efforts," he said.

Meanwhile, the PBA board of governors completely severed its ties with the BAP yesterday by passing a resolution to rescind a memorandum of agreement that gives the pro league the free hand to form national teams for certain international meets.

"This is to dramatize PBA's full support for the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas and the unity effort," Eala said in a press release mailed to media offices yesterday.

"It also settles once and for all claim by BAP that the PBA supports them. That's what they keep telling the Fiba (International Basketball Federation)."

Also, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday lashed out at the BAP's bid to gain reinstatement in the Olympic body.

"Tell me one good reason why they should be reinstated," said Cojuangco.

The former Tarlac representative also questioned the BAP's random change of leadership for the past year and a half.

"They had four presidents in the last 18 months," said Cojuangco. "Why should we give recognition to such an organization?"

Expelled from the rolls of the POC during the watch of Quintellano "Tiny" Literal in 2005, the BAP had installed former Senator Joey Lina as president and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in succession.

The BAP dumped Estrada after the latter struck a deal with businessman Manny V. Pangilinan, who heads the unity efforts of the SBP, that would have led to the formation of a single national federation for the sport.

In the Estrada-Pangilinan agreement, the PLDT bigwig will be the president while Estrada

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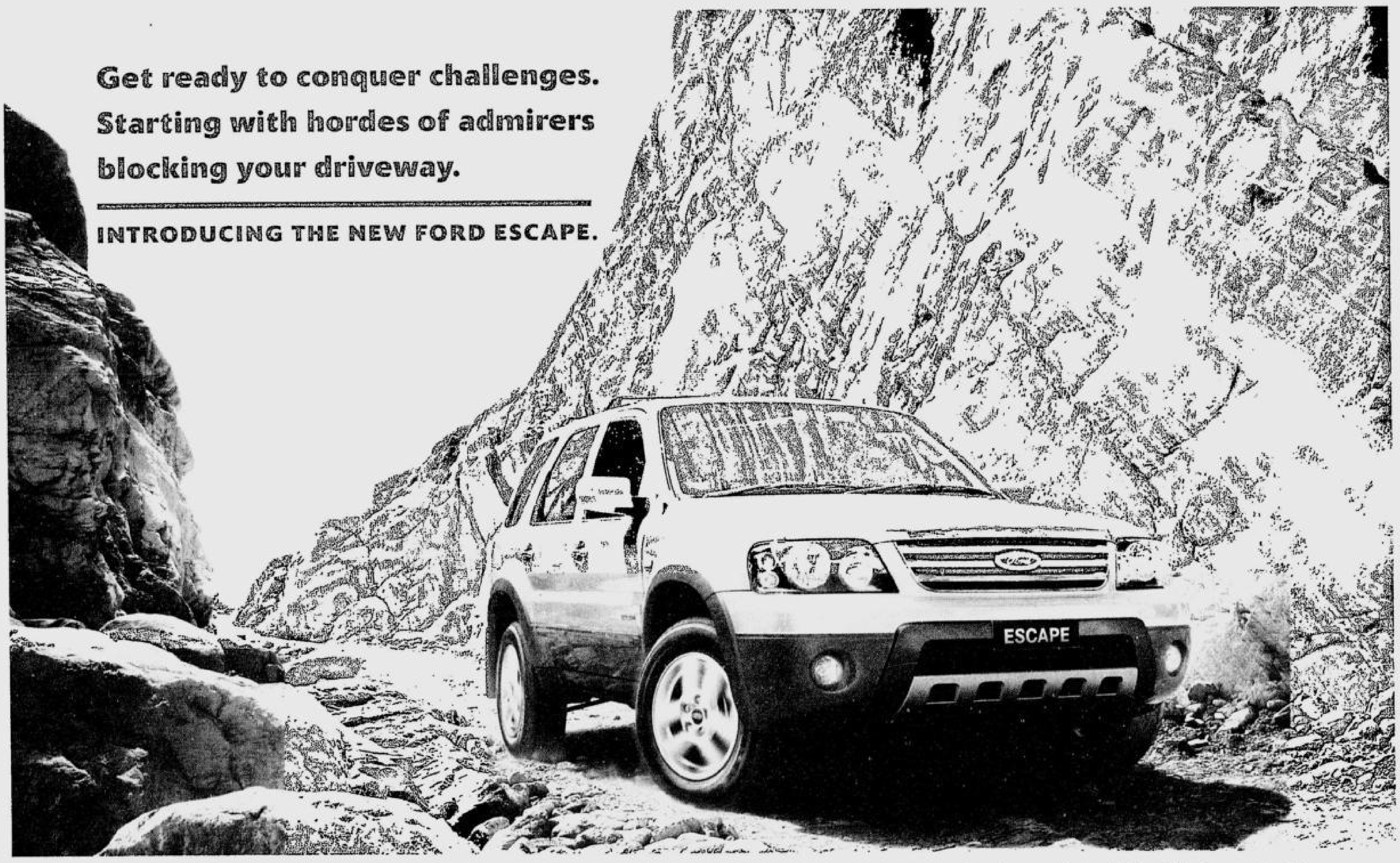

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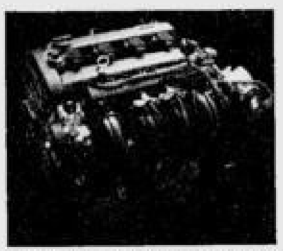

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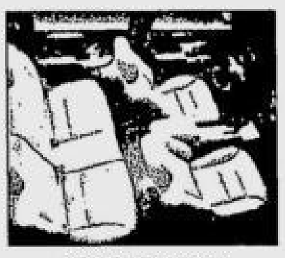

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Worried HBO skips Pacquiao-Chi showdown coverage

MANNY PACQUIAO'S DECISION TO stick it out with Bob Arum's Top Ranks is starting to look like a really bad one.

While people connected to Wynn Macau are denying any knowledge about a fight Pacquiao is supposed to have there against Korean In jin Chi on April 28, HBO has backed out of the coverage of the event apparently because of certain legal implications caused by the Filipino ring sensation's decision to stick it out with Top Rank.

HBO backed out of the coverage because Golden Boy Promotions, the Oscar De La Hoya outfit that signed Pacquiao to a seven-fight deal, sent the cable giant a letter saying it will be dragged into the legal mess currently hounding Top Rank if it will air the Pacquiao-Chi fight.

A source told the INQUIRER that HBO's pullout may result in pullouts also by possible venues.

Earlier, it had been reported by boxing website Philboxing.com that people connected with Wynn Macau have no knowledge about an April 28 fight between Manny Pacquiao and Korean In jin Chi, giving impressions that Arum was pulling venues from out of thin air.

Pacquiao's associate Rex 'Wakee' Salud, after a recent trip to Macau, confirmed this, saying that the Wynn Hotel doesn't have a venue for such a big event, and that people in the area do not seem interested in the coming summer bout.

Still, Arum is insistent that the fight will push through.

"The fight is going to go on April 28th," he said in an interview with maxboxing.com. "We never said it would definitely be on HBO."

His latyest statement is a complete turnaround from his earlier pronouncements that the fight will be on HBO.

"We're talking with a Philippine network and we have reserved the 27th and the 28th on pay-per-view with InDemand, etc.," clarified Arum.

"Golden Boy sent a legal letter to HBO and they may not want to be involved in the lawsuit," informed Arum in an interview with Steve Kim on Saturday night at the Honda Center in Anaheim.

"This will effectively put Pacquiao's career on hold until the resolution of the court," said a source. "Don't be surprised if by example from HBO, possible venues will also deny hosting a Pacquiao fight."

Meanwhile, Arum seems to be in agreement with trainer Freddie Roach that the Filipino superstar should leave the Philippines pronto and start working.

"I agree with Roach," Arum told boxingconfidential.com "Manny is going to have stop all the stuff and stop playing around. Time for play is over and the time for real work is here. I absolutely agree with Roach on this."

Arum still could not believe the popularity that Pacquiao has achieved in the Philippines, even comparing the Filipino's fame in the country to Muhammad Ali's popularity all over the world.

But such popularity has a price and Arum thinks Pacquiao's continued stay here would only hamper preparations for his future fights.

"It would be impossible for him [to prepare] at home," said Arum. "Manny must be isolated over here [in the US]. His popularity at home is so unbelievable. I saw it and I still don't believe it. He's like [who] Muhammad Ali used to be.

"You walk with him, through the streets, through an airport, they are taking pictures, wanting to shake his hand. Everybody wants a piece of Manny, everybody wants to be able to say 'I touched him' or 'he touched my baby' or whatever. They all want Manny's personal touch or a word from him." *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

SMB, TNT seek 3-1 leads

Beermen will wear new gameface vs Barako–Chot

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs San Miguel

TORN TO SHREDS THE last time up and a 1-2 deficit staring him in the eyes, Yeng Guiao is looking at his Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup semifinal series with San Miguel in the proper perspective.

But that doesn't mean that he's feeling the pressure just yet, and that his team's psyche is in shambles.

"The only confidence problem we have is that either we're highly confident or just confident," Guiao, just moments after absorbing a 109-82 Game 3 beating Sunday night, said.

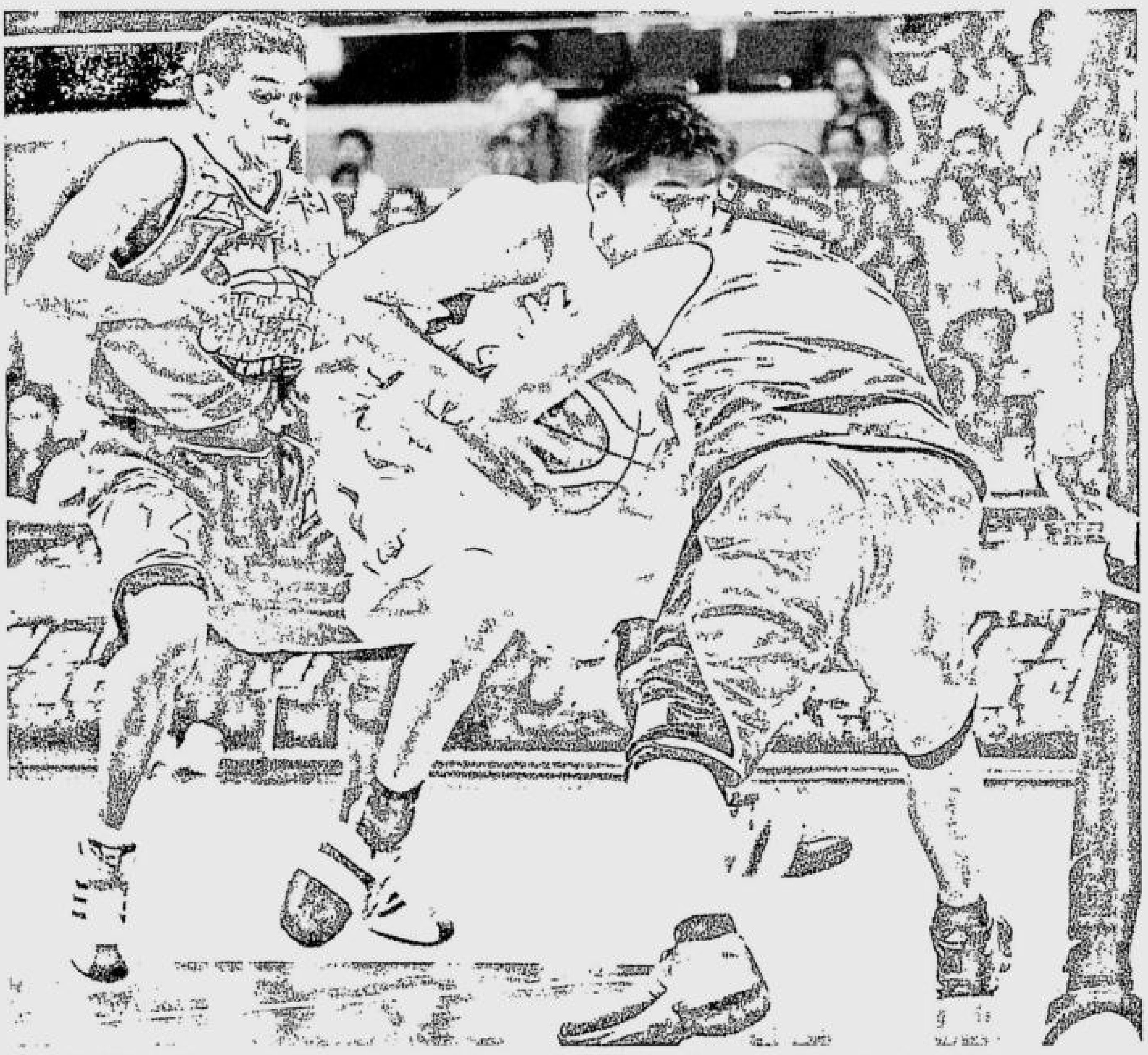
He also admitted being dominated in an overwhelming way Sunday, and that it is his turn to do the adjustments and avoid being put in a deep hole very few teams have come out from in the past.

"This game was big, but not as big as the next one (Game 4)," Guiao added. "We've been in worse situations and have come out of it well."

Guiao and his Barako can start backing their words tonight, when they collide with the Beermen in what looks like a must-win game even as Talk 'N Text also shoots for a 3-1 lead over crowd-darling Barangay Ginebra.

Talk 'N Text and Ginebra take the Araneta Coliseum floor first at 4:35 p.m. before the Red Bull-San Miguel match at 7:20.

San Miguel coach Chot Reyes made his team come out with a new gameface, one that was rugged and physical. He promised that the Beermen will remain playing that way, putting a major sidelight into the series.



THE PHONE Pals-Kings tussle will feature face-offs between Mark Cardona (center) and Mark Caguioa (right). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Meanwhile, San Miguel center Danny Ildefonso, who was summoned for a talk with league officials on Monday after being ejected in Game 3 because of two technical fouls, was meted a P5,000 fine for the infraction.

The Phone Pals have been the revelation of the Final Four so far, winning their last two games opposite the Gin Kings, the last in a very convincing manner, to install Talk 'N Text as the new favorite.

"This is not over yet, not by any means," coach Derrick Pumaren said. "We cannot let our guard down (despite a 2-1 lead) because we know that Ginebra is a team that is capable of coming back."

Ginebra is feeling the absence of Eric Menk, who will be out for the remainder of the series because of a serious calf injury.

Musong R. Castillo

THOMAS ISIAH BABILONIA

A rising son vows to keep his end of the bargain

By Jasmine W. Payo

THOMAS ISIAH BABILONIA HAD wanted his father to be there at the fulfillment of a pact the 16-year-old cager had made with him.

But just as dawn crept in on the 14th of January, fate drastically rearranged his life, thrusting him into a vacuum world and forcing him to deal with the yet unfulfilled vow alone.

That day, former national team player and ex-PBA journeyman Gido Babilonia passed away due to complications brought about by pneumonia and orphaned a family struggling to cope with his absence, including a son clinging to the words he left behind.

"Win or lose, dad always told me what I need to improve, how to react to the ball, to stay low and be aggressive," he said. "I want to get his defensive skills and his attitude, like every time he goes into the game, he's always prepared."

Nothing, though, could have prepared the young Babilonia for this: Playing out his final NCAA junior season without the towering 40-year-old figure shouting encouragement from the sidelines.

"All my games in the NCAA he watched," he said. "I'll miss hearing his voice in the crowd, his instructions and encouragement."

"One time when we lost, he told me I should to try to lead the team on my own," recalled Babilonia, who at 6-foot-4, is just an inch shy of Gido's height.

"Even if I'm not the team captain, he told me that I should influence my teammates, to think positive. He motivates well."

And for all that his father said to him, the words the late basketball player left unspoken were the ones that would have mattered the most—Babilonia continues to hold on to the hope that in the last two years, he made his father, a two-time NCAA juniors MVP at Letran, proud.

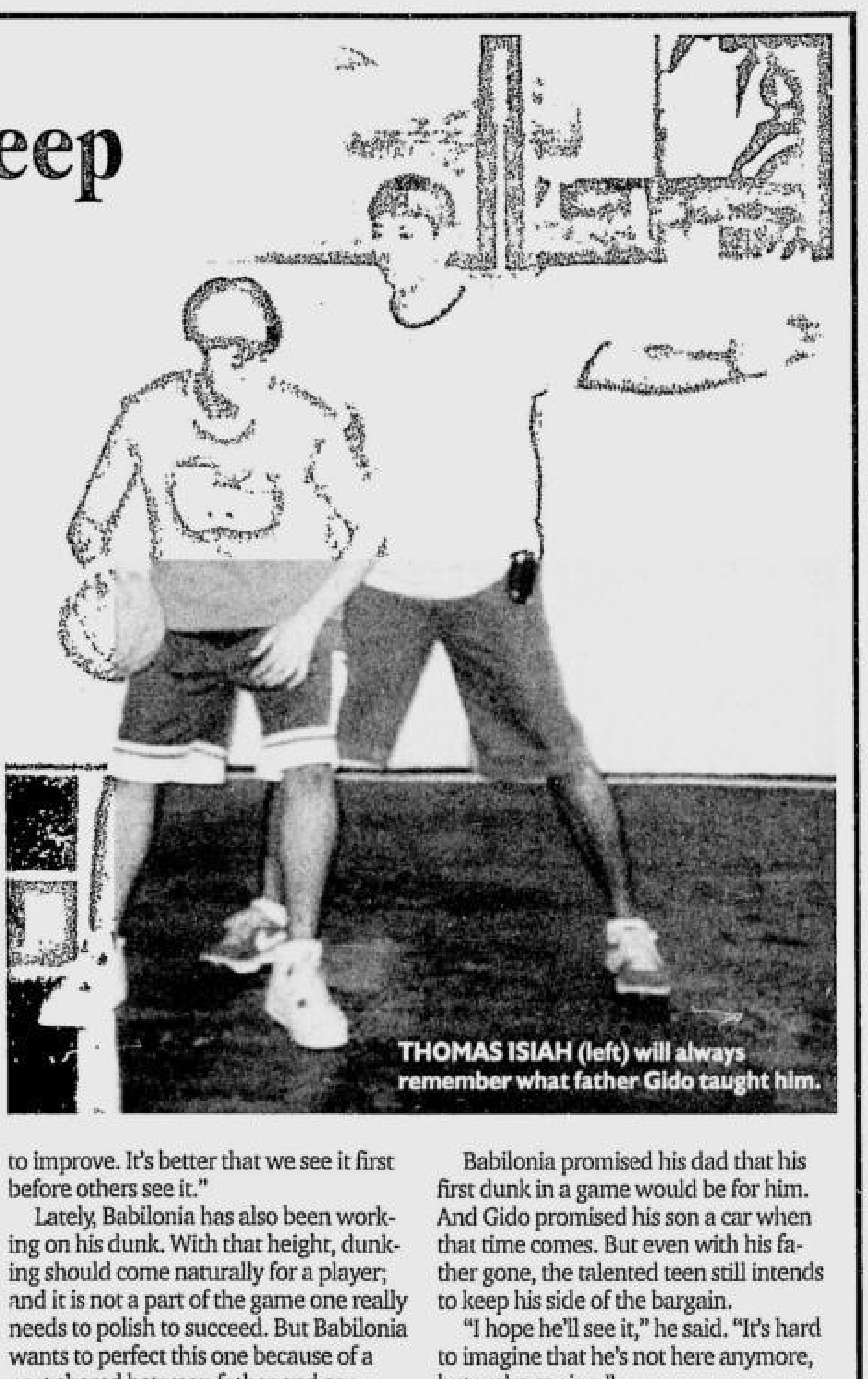
After all, the young beefy cager bagged the Best Player plum in the 2006 All-Star Nike Elite and the Most Valuable Player and Mythical Five awards in the 2006 Private School Basketball League.

In 2005, Babilonia also represented the country in the Adidas junior basketball camp in Shanghai, China.

"Dad always thought I can surpass his achievements," he said. "He only started in second year high school, and he said I'm better because I learned the basics when I was young. I was given the height, I just need to improve my skills."

Gido's wife, Bing, revealed that their son also got some tough love from his father in their one-one-one training sessions.

"Gido's meticulous," she said. "Just like a coach, there's a drill he wants Tommy to do and it's timed. He's not the daddy who gives all adulation. Tommy used to ask if dad isn't contented with his game. But Gido said if I will always praise you, you will not learn. I look at your mistakes so that you'll know what to improve. It's better that we see it first before others see it."



THOMAS ISIAH (left) will always remember what father Gido taught him.

Lately, Babilonia has also been working on his dunk. With that height, dunking should come naturally for a player; and it is not a part of the game one really needs to polish to succeed. But Babilonia wants to perfect this one because of a pact shared between father and son.

Babilonia promised his dad that his first dunk in a game would be for him. And Gido promised his son a car when that time comes. But even with his father gone, the talented teen still intends to keep his side of the bargain.

"I hope he'll see it," he said. "It's hard to imagine that he's not here anymore, but we're coping."

Officials urge NSA's: Raise your own funds

THE COUNTRY'S TOP SPORTS OFFICIALS are hoping that the national sports associations will take their cue from boxing and taekwondo and start raising their own funds to finance their preparations for the 2007 Southeast Games in Thailand and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Boxing and taekwondo have two of the most comprehensive sports programs backed by private sponsors.

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Peping Cojuangco and Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chair Butch Ramirez said the NSAs should not solely rely on government funding because sports was given a thin slice of the national budget pie.

"The NSAs should do their own thing regarding the funding of their training for the SEA Games," said Cojuangco during the PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant.

Ramirez said the PSC's budget of P108 million for this year won't be enough to cover all the requests for the international exposures by the different NSAs.

A particular NSA, for example, requested funding for 10 international tournaments this year. Ramirez said granting that request would mean depriving other NSAs of financial aid.

"If [that particular NSA] really wants to compete in all these international tournaments, it should raise funds from the private sector," added Ramirez.

Ramirez said First Gentleman Mike Arroyo has promised to help in the country's preparations for the 2008 Beijing Olympics by passing the hat among the country's top businesses.

Ramirez said the country should prepare a war chest of P200 million in its bid to finally win the elusive gold medal in the quadrennial event.

Thais cut RP pool's SEAG gold chances

THE PHILIPPINES MAY BE THE CRADLE OF pool in the eyes of the world. In the Southeast Asian Games (SEAG), that cradle just got smaller.

The country's top officials said that the decision of Thailand to reduce the number of pool events in the 2007 SEAG will give the country a hard time matching its success in the Manila edition of the games.

"We will find it hard to regain overall supremacy in the Thailand Games since the number of pool events were greatly reduced," said Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) chairman Yen Makabenta at the PSA forum at the Pantalan Restaurant main function room in Manila.

Filipino billiards players stamped their class in the 2005 SEAG by bagging eight gold medals—seven of them in billiards—out of the 14 at stake in the biennial meet.

But BSCP president Ernie Fajardo bared that of the 10 events calendared in the Thailand Games, only four are pool contests, namely the men's and women's individual 9-ball and 8-ball competitions.

"As expected, the Thai hosts are bent on winning as many golds as they can, including snooker where they think they have the best chances," the two officials said.

"They eliminated most of the billiards sports and the doubles, where we were strong in 2005," Makabenta said.

Still, the two officials believe the sport is riding a wave of momentum from last year and they hope to ride it through this year.

The two top events in the BSCP calendar are the National 9-Ball Championship in March and the 2nd World Pool Championship in November.

The National 9-ball championship is set March 26 to 31 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"We're staging the national championship for men and women for the first time," said Fajardo.

Makabenta said that four slots will also be up for grabs in the national tourney to the world pool competitions scheduled from Nov. 3 to 11.

Marlon Bernardino

Chess probers believe some players guilty of game fixing

MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines investigating team believe that some players are guilty of game-fixing based on the score sheet of the suspects they analyzed and reviewed.

Probe team head International Arbiter Willie Abalos and members National Arbiter Patrick Lee, NA Ilann Perez and National Master Cesar Caturla, national women's coach in last year's Turin Chess Olympiad; however, the fate of the players who allegedly conspired to influence the outcome of tournaments will still be up to the NCFP board.

PICHAY

"Based on the evidence we have, particularly the score sheet of the suspects, we can prove that some of them are guilty (of game fixing)," said Abalos in Filipino. "But these are our personal opinions and the board will still be the one to hand out the decision."

"This is pure work and without consideration of the personalities involved," added Abalos. "It's the board led by Cong. (Prospero "Butch") Pichay which told us to investigate. I repeat, I have no personal quarrel or hate for the suspects because this is purely work to cleanse RP chess.

Other members of the probe team formed by Pichay are International Master Jayson Gonzales and NA Elias Lao.

In their letter submitted to Pichay dated Jan. 22, the probers said they investigated the matches between Merben Roque and WNM Enerose Magno, board 26, round 9 of GMA Cup; IM Ronald Dableo vs NM Oliver Barbosa, board 5, round 6 of National Championships (2nd Pichay Cup); Rainier Labay vs WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, board 28, round 5 of National Championships (2nd Pichay Cup) and WNM Christy Lamiel Bernales vs Dino Ballecer, round 9 of National Championships (2nd Pichay Cup).

Many of the suspected players have already denied their involvement in the game-fixing/networking scam that rock Philippine chess for the past three weeks.

Tara Jade Aurelio-Dableo came to her husband's (Ronald) defense while Jomar Bernales also denied the involvement of his 12 year-old daughter Christy Lamiel. Labay, Lomibao and Magno have also issued their denials.

Grandmaster Mark Paragua and IM Darwin Laylo are not in the list because, according to Gonzales, organizers have yet to submit the score sheets of last year's Tanauan Open.

Paragua has also denied his involvement in game-fixing while Laylo doesn't want to comment on the matter.

NCFP executive director lawyer Samuel Estimo who earlier said that he has strong evidence against Dableo and Laylo, is pushing for an investigation of last year's Tanauan Open as well.

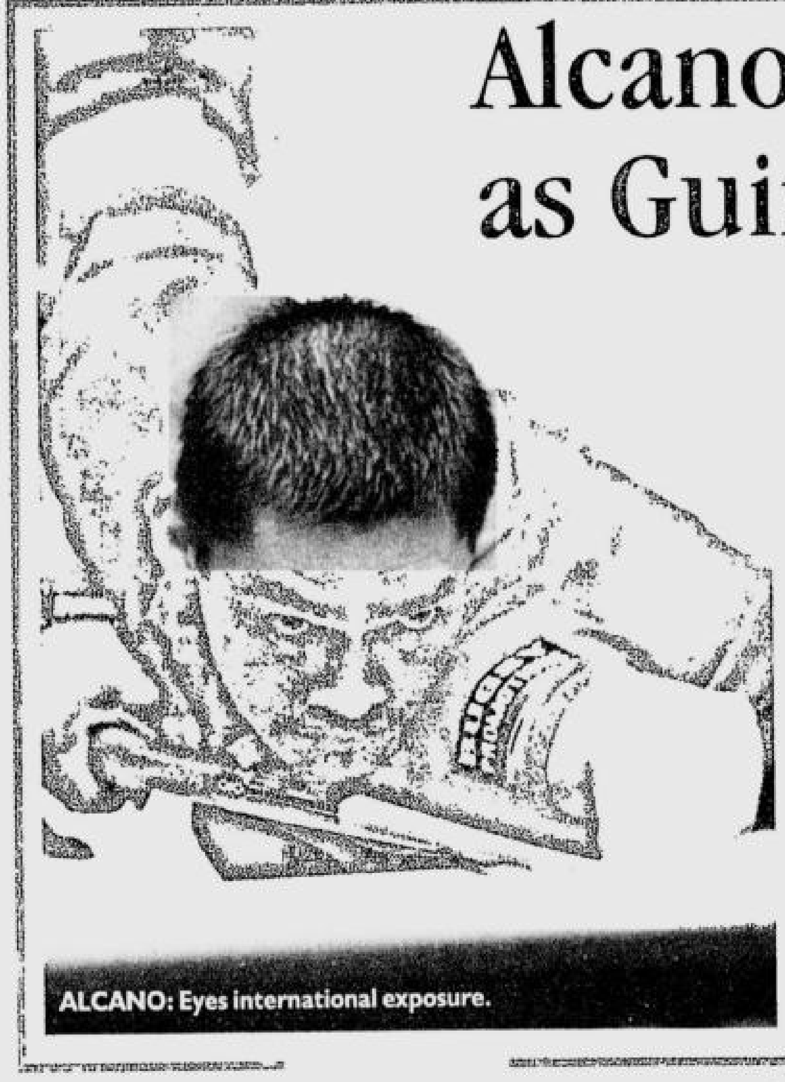
Meanwhile, Pichay called for an urgent board meeting tomorrow to discuss the game-fixing/networking scandal.

According to Estimo, it would require a two-thirds vote of the 15-man board to hand a conviction on erring players. He said it is also the board, which will decide on what sanction it would slap on the players.

Estimo explained that, according to the association's charter, the accused will be given 30 days to refute the charges against him.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Alcano signs contract as Guinness endorser


ALCANO: Eyes international exposure.

REIGNING WORLD POOL champion Ronato Alcano left the country yesterday to seal an endorsement deal with ESPN Star Sports and Guinness Beer officials in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia .

"Of course, I'm happy," said the 34-year-old Alcano in Filipino, referring to the P1-million offer he received from the famous Irish stout beer.

"We're really thrilled that he (Alcano) was chosen by Guinness to be its endorser over other Filipino players," said Verna Mariano, Alcano's manager and Bugsy promotions head. "Maybe they (Guinness) like a new face and they are still enthralled by Ronnie's victory in the World Pool Championships.

"Hopefully, this will inspire other rising players to do better," said Mariano, who accompanied Alcano to Kuala Lumpur. "Who knows, they may become product endorsers as well."

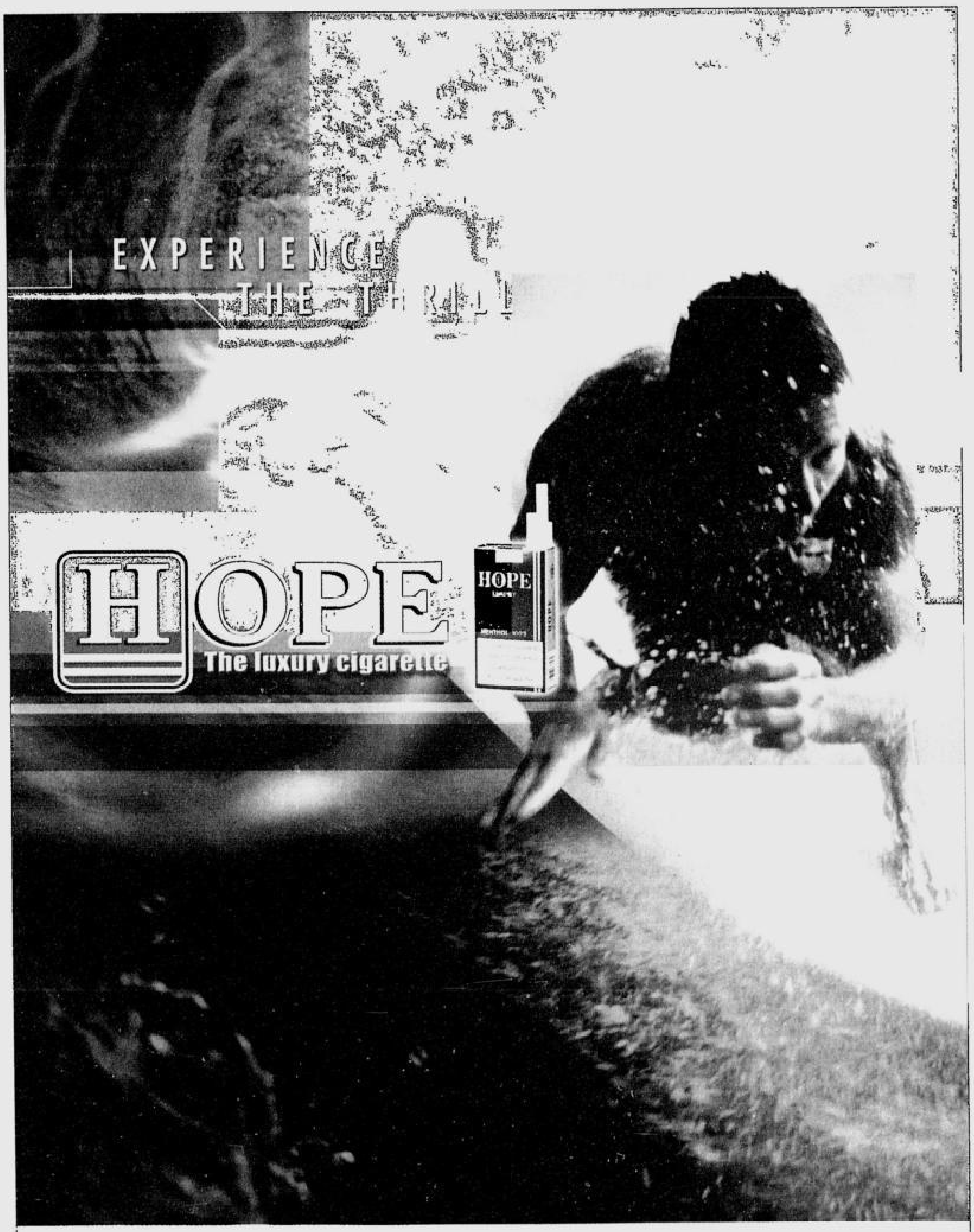
Alcano gained prominence when he beat ex-world titlist Ralf Souquet of Germany in the finals of the WPC last November at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila .

In his first major tournament this year, Alcano made it to the quarterfinals of the 17th Annual All Kansai 9-ball Open last week in Osaka, Japan.

In a separate interview last Monday, lawyer Vic Rodriguez revealed it's not the money but the international exposure he's going to get that prompted his client (Alcano) to accept the Guinness offer.

Guinness Beer is the new title sponsor of the six-city Asian 9-ball tour, a qualification tournament for the World Pool Championships.

Marlon Bernardino



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

KIA
KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise

KIA ON A NATIONWIDE DEALER NETWORK EXPANSION

F.J. Mabilog, Jr.
PRESIDENT & COO

Boutique outlets rise in key cities and provinces.

Soon, there's going to be a Kia dealer right by your neighborhood. You might not even have to walk a mile to get a Kia.

Columbian Autocar Corp. (CAC), manufacturer and distributor of Kia in the Philippines, has taken an aggressive marketing stance to open more Kia authorized dealerships and sales outlets in the country's major cities and provinces. This was revealed by CAC president and chief operating officer (COO) Felix J. Mabilog, Jr.

"Kia needs to be brought closer to our customers," says Mabilog. "We want them to enjoy the kind of service, both before and after-sales, that has distinguished Kia dealership around the world and we want them to experience this now," he adds.

The trajectory is aimed at tapping the huge market potential in the country's outlying areas where Kia has not attempted to reach in previous years. Mabilog believes that customers are ready for Kia and the only problem preventing them from making that decision is the logistical nightmare that buying one entails.

"They like the Kia brand and are prepared for to pay the price. But where do they buy?", Mabilog asks

The solution is in opening boutique-type sales outlets where one to three car models may be on display. Customers may come in to inspect the vehicles themselves or browse at other car catalogues available at the center or go for a test drive. These vehicles may then be bought on order. Already, such new outlets have opened in Tagbilaran, Pagadian, Butuan and Zamboanga City, to name only a few of these one-car showcases, with very encouraging results.

New outlets have also opened in Antipolo and Taytay, Sta. Rosa in Laguna, Libis in Pasig, Novaliches and Bocaue, Bulacan, places that until now have not merited the attention of other automotive brands. To drum up interest for these new outlets, customer relations officers or CROs are tapped to distribute brochures and product information materials and test drives of all car models are available as regular features..

"Customers are confident of a car brand that promises prompt after sales service," reasons Apollo Rosal, CAC's national service manager. "Our authorized dealers with three S's (sales,service and spare parts) have adequate supply of Kia genuine parts and are variously equipped to handle any mechanical trouble should customers from our boutique showrooms need any. They also do preventive maintenance work and fulfill warranty requirements," Rosal adds.

"The key to enjoying the trust of potential customers is to make a commitment towards honest, prompt and efficient before and after-sales service," says Mabilog. "We are doing that now and we intend to deliver them constantly and consistently," he adds.

KIA MOTORS
KIA PAGADIAN CITY

KIA MOTORS
KIA ANTIPOLO
KIA ANTIPOLO
NOW OPEN
KIA ANTIPOLO

Ming still badminton president

MING RAMOS

FORMER FIRST Lady Amelita 'Ming' Ramos was reelected by acclamation as president of the Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) during the association's annual general assembly meeting over the weekend at the Philippine Sports Commission Athlete's Lounge.

Ramos, however, will serve her term for only two years instead of the regular four-year term stipulated in the association's by-laws and constitution.

"*Na*-late *kasi ang aming* election and based on our constitution we have to elect a new president during Olympic year," said Ramos.

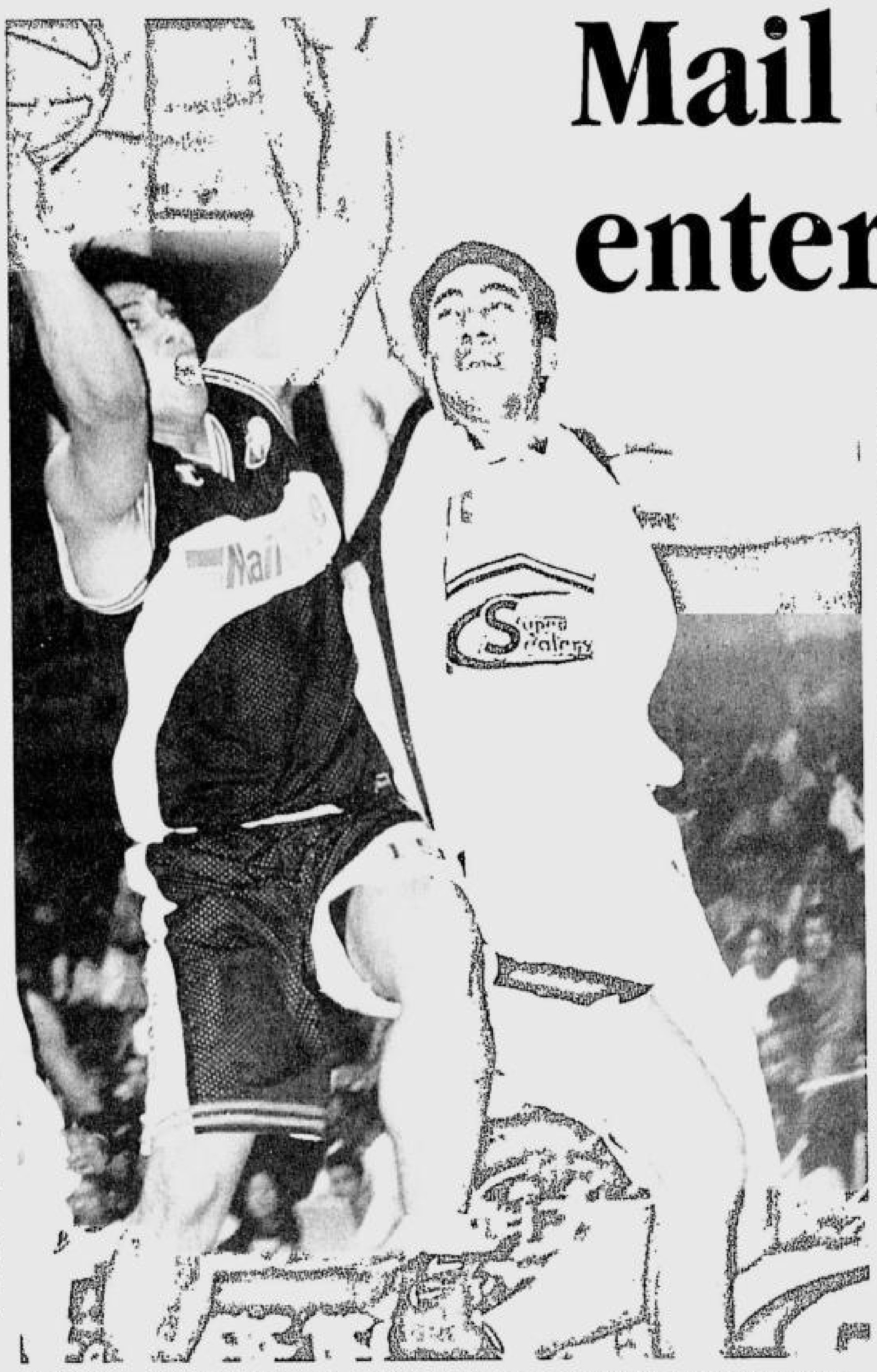
Actually, national coach and grassroots development program chair Errol Chan was nominated as president by Romeo Gacatian, representing the Pampanga Badminton Association, but the former national champion declined and gave his full support for Ramos to continue her programs.

Chan, representing the National Capital Region (NCTR) had in his possession 40 proxy votes out of 103 voting members.

Ramos said she will appoint other officials that comprise the executive board as she vowed to put premium on the PBA's grassroots development program, launched early last year with the staging of the Yonex-Sunrise Regional Championships under the leadership of Chan.

Ramos also revealed that a new contract with Yonex Apparel is under negotiations and part of the contract is financial support to the athletes' participation in international events.

Mail and More enters Final 4


NESTOR David (left) of Mail and More drives to the hoop as Kelvin Gregorio of Henkel Sista defends in their game at the Olivarez College Sports Center yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOR THE FIRST TIME, MAIL and More coach Lawrence Chongson seemed lost for words after his "miracle team" clinched the last Final Four berth in the PBL Silver Cup.

Just when Mail and More's season seemed to have reached its end, Jim Viray nailed a layup with 2.4 seconds left for a 53-52 escape versus Henkel Sista yesterday at the Olivarez College Sports Center.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym)
2 p.m. — Harbour Centre vs Toyota Otis
4 p.m. — Mail and More vs Hapee-PCU

"To be honest, it was the breaks (of the game) and divine intervention," said Chongson.

JR Quinahan, making up for another dismal scoring performance, dished an outlet pass to Viray just seconds after the Sealers learned the importance of free throw shooting.

Khiel Misa, a 64 percent free throw shooter, missed two charities in the last 9.6 seconds that could have upped Sista's lead to three points.

Mail and More will tackle outright semifinalist Hapee-PCU in a best-of five series starting tomorrow. Harbour Centre and Toyota Otis will clash in the other semifinal pairing.

Comets reserve Ronjay Buenafe shot nine points to finish with a team-high 13 markers.

Down by six points, 46-52, in the final two minutes, the Comets responded with a spurt capped by a reverse layup from Elmer Espiritu that trimmed the deficit to 51-52, with only 54.7 seconds left.

Despite the slim lead, the Sealers seemed headed for the win after Quinahan threw an air-ball jumper with only 13.5 seconds remaining.

The Comets' dire situation forced Buenafe to foul Misa, who confidently trooped to the free throw line.

Hardly an offensive factor for the second straight game, Quinahan tallied only six points on a 3-of-14 shooting.

Sista seemed poise to overcome Mail and More's twice-to-beat advantage with the solid plays of its wingmen led by Marcy Arellano and Eder Saldua.

Saldua launched his attack in the second period by drilling back-to-back triples that started a 10-0 run for a 26-17 lead.

Sista forged yesterday's decider after nipping Mail and More, 79-72, last Saturday. Chongson missed the game due to a prior commitment.

The scores:

MAIL AND MORE 53 — Buenafe 13, Del Rosario 8, Bravo 6, Quinahan 6, David 5, Espiritu 4, Viray 4, Canizares 3, Te 2, Ballesteros 2.

HENKEL SISTA 52 — Arellano 14, Saldua 11, Misa 8, Eman 4, Bonus 4, Alfad 4, Bauzon 3, Malabanan 2, Gregorio 2, Robles 0, Pinera 0.

Quarters: 13-13, 23-26, 34-38, 53-52

Baguio hosts Adidas KOTR

RUDY BISCOCHO

REGISTRATION FOR the Adidas King of the Road Baguio City edition is on.

Marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho said those interested may register at Adidas Haven at the YMCA Bldg. on Session Rd. and at the Adidas depot store at No. 8 Laubach Rd. with tels. (074) 4426417 and (074) 4429016.

The expanded Adidas KOTR 2007 which will have 4 races in four cities for February and March—Baguio City, Feb. 11; Davao City, Feb. 25; Cebu City, March 4; Metro Manila, March 11; and the 10 cities 100,000 runners in one day on June 17 is nationally managed and supervised by Biscocho.

There will be two events for competition—the 3K run and the 10K KOTR. All physically fit individuals 6 years old and above are qualified to join.

In the 10K run, up for grabs is the bragging right to be called Adidas King Of The Road in Baguio City. There will be a team competition open to running groups which can submit a minimum of 50 entries per group. .

The 10K King and Queen of the KOTR event will receive P10,000 each, gift certificate and a trophy. The top three teams will receive P15,000, P10,000, and P5,000, respectively, plus a gift certificate and a trophy. In the age category, the first finisher, male and female, will receive P1,000 gift certificate, gift pack, and a medal.

Registration fee is P200. A birth certificate or any valid ID is required for acceptance.

The race director for Baguio City is Leo Arnaiz of Adidas Haven with full cooperation of the office of the City Mayor. It is also listed as one of the events for the celebration of the Panabenga Festival in February.

Other supporters are the Baguio City PNP, Public Safety Office, Baguio Benguet Public Information Civic Action Group; and the Philippine National Red Cross- Baguio City.

'Pacquiao is not a robber'

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

IT'S A FIGHT HE WOULD SURELY WIN.

But the popular cry, the unanimous call, is for Manny Pacquiao not to enter the ring.

Yes, how could Pacquiao ever lose if he, say, runs for mayor of General Santos City?

Of course, the RP boxing hero has yet to make a formal announcement of his intent to enter the political ring.

But there are those who sincerely fear for Pacquiao.

They claim he would emerge from this prospective bout a total wreck. They have also started praying, quite fervently, for him

**

Dear Champ,

I am only one of your millions of fans.

Saludo ako sa iyo, I salute you, sir.

Just a little wisdom, idol.

Thank God for all these blessings he has bestowed on you.

Few are chosen, idol, so why not give boxing more time in your life?

I think politics can wait.

When you retire in boxing, you'll win in politics anyway, for you have done great things for Filipinos.

You're an inspiration to us all.

Box first, run later.

Politics will always be there waiting for you.

Mabuhay ka champ *at iyong pamilya.*

**

Amen!

That prayer was composed for the national boxing idol by jazz master Richard Merk.

Merk, in case you're wondering, is just like you and me—a Pacquiao fanatic.

He has followed practically everything the Pacman does both inside and outside the ring.

Of course, we all know that, with his immense popularity, Pacquiao could snag a seat in the Senate without throwing a single left hook.

In fact, there were those who cried "Pacquiao for President" following his dramatic first conquest of Erik Morales in their second encounter in Las Vegas, Nevada last year.

Repeat: Pacquiao would not only be fearsome, he would be truly invincible if he wages a non-fight inside the political ring.

Just the same, there is this boundless fear for the boxing idol who has brought immeasurable joy and hope to his poor countrymen.

**

Why did he want to enter politics? (*Bakit gusto rin niyang maging politico?*) wondered a greasy, sharp-nosed stall helper in the pork section of the Mandaluyong wet market yesterday.

Before your reporter could offer his two-cents worth, the fellow candidly answered his own question:

"*Hindi naman siya magnanakaw, bakit siya magpu-politico* (He's not a robber, why did he want to turn politician?)"

Well, the poor fellow next turned away to do his chore.

He did not hear it when it was told that Pacquiao could, indeed, also make good politician.

In fact, the boxing hero had shown the clear makings of a top Filipino leader in his latest dealings for his next fight.

He played doble-cara and performed with both fists blazing when he signed two contracts—first with Oscar de la Hoya, before renouncing the announced pact, to agree and fight for big time promoter Bob Arum.

That, in case you have forgotten, clearly showed that Manny Pacquiao, a national treasure, is also capable of scoring with a monumental turnaround, a shot below the belt.

Remember that big bluff by you know who—herself a raging Pacquiao fanatic—who vowed never to run again but, just the same, ended up running the country by dishonoring her word and allegedly stealing the vote?

She did triumph with a hometown decision, a filthy foul—a historic theft, if you please.

NBC renews partnership with Sulpicio Lines

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL Conference's partnership with Sulpicio Lines has grown stronger.

NBC president Nathaniel Tac Padilla and Sulpicio Shipping Lines vice president Harold Go renewed their partnership for the fourth straight year recently through NBC secretary general Tito Palma.

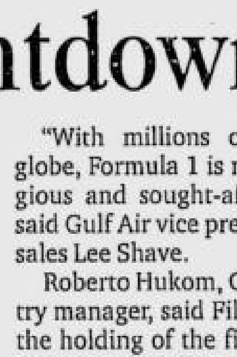
The deal makes Sulpicio Lines, which prides in being "Your Home at Sea," the official sea carrier of the country's premier regional cagefest.

"Sulpicio has been true to our vision. Our long standing partnership is a testament to the growing success of our leage," said Padilla.

"In line with our desire to bring people to their destinations and connect the archipelago, we have extended our ties with NBC, which is providing the venue for aspiring players to grow," said Go.

Sulpicio Lines, which has 13 vessels sailing to more than 30 destinations, will serve NBC officials, staffers and players from 12 teams every time they travel from north to south and back.

Manny Pacquiao's MP Warriors and Gensan and Villa Anita-Quezon head the 12 teams vying in the fourth conference starting on March 10 at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.


TITO PALMA

HAROLD GO

SM BOWLING: Engineer Ric Camaligan, VP SM leisure; Jose Sidric Panganiban, assistant division manager SM Bowling Center; representatives from Pepsi-Cola Phils. and the captains of the participating teams of the 1st SM Company Bowling Tournament during the opening ceremonies held recently.

Bahrain International Circuit countdown on

THE COUNTDOWN TO THE HIGHLY ANTICipated Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2007 has begun as Gulf Air and Bahrain International Circuit kicked off a regional tour to promote the Middle East's only Formula 1 event.

The road show, the fourth conducted jointly by Gulf Air and BIC since the first Formula 1 race held in the Middle East in 2004, began in Bahrain, home of the motorsport in the region, on Jan. 17.

The road show will travel to Muscat, Beirut, Cairo, Kuwait, Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh, Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

"With millions of followers across the globe, Formula 1 is no doubt the most prestigious and sought-after motor sport event," said Gulf Air vice president for marketing and sales Lee Shave.

Roberto Hukom, Gulf Air-Philippines country manager, said Filipino fans were awaiting the holding of the first F1 race this year. "F1 has a strong following in the Philippines," said Hukom.

The Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will be held on April 13-15 with the region's top racers competing.

Tall Aussie lifts Wack Wack I to pro-am crown

By Musong R. Castillo

AUSTRALIAN ADAM BLYTH POWERED Wack Wack I to a net 55 yesterday and the championship in the Philippine Open pro-am tournament at Wack Wack's fabled East layout.

The long-hitting 6-foot-7 Asian Tour junior eagled the par-4 No. 6 to highlight his round while getting valuable help from Elvira Liboro, Gabriel Villareal and Estong Lim in the best-ball format.

They won gift certificates from the Wack Wack pro shop worth P9,600. The amateurs in the team also won a dozen golf balls each.

The 91st edition of Asia's oldest national championship gets off the ground tomorrow, with Scott Strange, another Aussie from Perth, shooting to win the event for the second straight year.

Frankie Miñoza, in his first Open appearance in four years, is also favored, like rising Asian star Juvic Pagunsan and Angelo Que.

Australians have actually won the last two editions of the Open, with Adam Les Vesconte, who won in Malarayat with a 12-under total in 2005, also included in the crack 156-man field.

David Brandsdon, another Aussie, Red Kapunan, Sylvia Montemayor and Joane Lao were good for a 57 and second place for the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office team.

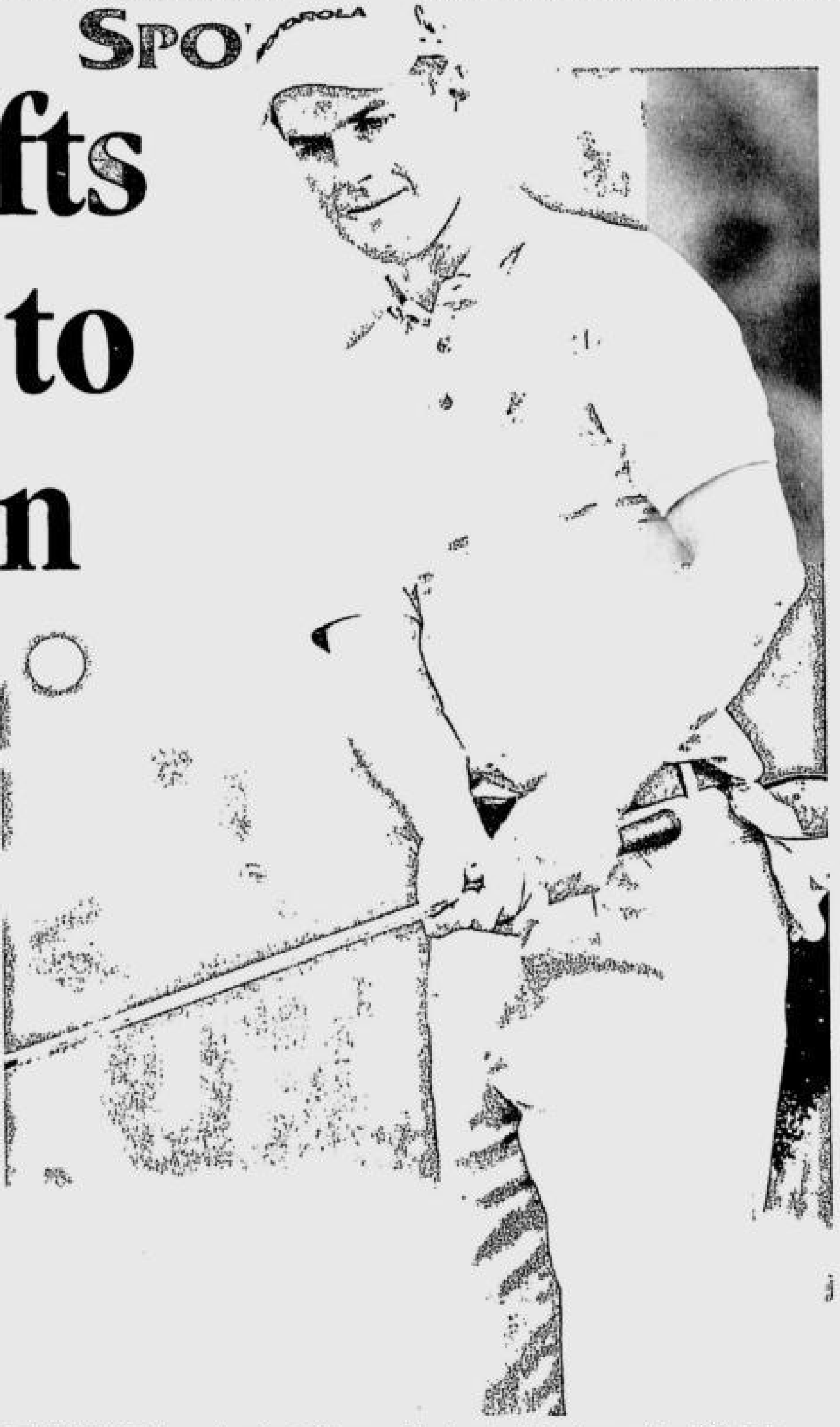
South Korea's Park Jun Won and amateur partners Richard Joson, Tony Pancho and Omar Dungca combined for a net 59 to settle for third place.

A pro and three amateurs made up each of the 30 teams that took part in the 18-hole tournament, the format being stroke play with the best net score counting on each hole.

This year's $300,000 91st Philippine Open is supported by the First Gentleman Foundation, the International Container Terminal Services Inc., San Miguel Corp., Philippine Airlines (official carrier), Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and SMART. Other supporters include Taise Shimizu, Hanjin, Takenaka, JAC, Srixon, Aboitiz, 100 Plus Isotonic Sports Drink and Absolute.

Other notables in the field are former winner Rick Gibson of Canada, Anthony Kang and Andrew Pitts of the United States and England's Ben St. John.

The winner's purse is $47,550.



DEFENDING champion Scott Strange blasts out of the trap on the 18th hole during the RP Open pro-am yesterday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Taekwondo meet lures 1,000 jins

AROUND 1,000 JINS WILL SEE ACTION IN the SMART/Petron Carlos Palanca Jr. (CPJ) taekwondo championships on Sunday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the event includes competition in poomse.

There will be junior, first senior, second senior, first master, second master, first team and second team action in the men's and women's individual and team categories of poomse.

Organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong said the tourney also serves as part of the selection process for the 2007 Philippine team.

Competition in sparring will be conducted in eight divisions, namely, men's and women's seniors, juniors, mid-juniors and boys' and girls' grade school.

Winners will undergo rigorous training under the PTA for participation in the Asian Club championships and FAJR International Open championships in Tehran, Iran, world championships in Beijing, world selection for the Olympics in London, Korea Open in Korea, Asian selection for the Olympics in Vietnam, Southeast Asian Games in Bangkok and Asean championships in Vietnam.

Martial arts enthusiasts and sports buffs, especially children who are interested to learn the sport, are invited to witness the tournament starting at 9 a.m.

The event is supported by SMART Communications, PLDT, Petron, Milo, Philippines Sports Commission and Accel.

Reyes wins kiddies

TOP SEED NARQUINDEN REYES DOWNED Marc Christian Nazario in the fifth and final round to rule the January edition of the MCC Kiddies (14 & Under) Standard chess tourney held over the weekend at the Upper 2/F of St. Francis Square (SFS) in Mandaluyong City. The 14-year-old Reyes of Rizal recorded a perfect score of five points to claim his first MCC title.

Nazario, with 4 points, actually tied for 2nd-4th places with Kristian Cristobal and Arvie Jongko but took the runner-up honors via tiebreak. Cristobal occupied the third slot while Jongko placed fourth.

Adjudged Best 6-under player was Krizzelle Erika Cortuna of Angeles City; Best 8-Under was Marie Antoinette Sandiego and Best 10-Under was Jose Marti Caniones.

Other top finishers were Michael Angelo Manansala II of Batangas (5th); Jared Cruz of Taytay (6th); Vincent Joseph Fuerte (7th); John Mark Dimaliwat (8th); Sopungco (9th) and Jerome Villanueva of Pasig (10th).

UAAP ROUNDUP

UP spikers down Tams, gain share of lead

FORMER CHAMPION UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines subdued reigning titlist Far Eastern University, 19-25, 25-19, 25-22, 25-22, in UAAP Season 69 men's volleyball action Sunday at the UP Human Kinetics gym in Diliman.

The win, the ninth in 10 games, pushed the Maroons alongside the Tamaraws atop the standings.

University of Santo Tomas flirted with disaster before pulling off a 25-22, 23-25, 25-19, 23-25, 15-13 win over University of the East (UE), while Adamson University bucked a sluggish start to beat National University, 14-25, 25-23, 25-12, 25-18, in the other games.

UST improved to 6-3 (win-loss) for third place, while Adamson clinched its second win in 10 outings, the same record as the day's other loser, UE. NU dropped to 4-5.

In women's volleyball that is aired over Studio 23 from the Blue Eagle gym in Katipunan, FEU got back at UST, 22-25, 25-18, 25-14, 14-25, 15-13, to also tie its victim atop the standings with a 9-1 card.

In the other women's game, UE stunned UP, 25-20, 25-21, 25-21, and Adamson dropped, 25-15, 25-14, 25-12. Adamson is now 7-3, followed by UE with 5-5, UP with 3-8, Ateneo with 3-7 and NU with 0-11.

UE moved to within a win of sweeping the boys' high school eliminations for the automatic crown after it beat Ateneo, 25-13, 25-15, 25-6, also over the weekend at the UE Gym 5 in Manila.

UE's boys are unbeaten in five games, virtually the same record its girls are registering with a 3-0 card. The UE girls also Sunday whipped UP Integrated School, 25-16, 25-15, 25-11. UST beat UP in the other boys' game, 25-2, 25-8, 25-11.

In tennis at the Rizal Racket Club in Pasig City, UST stretched its winning run in the men's division to four at the expense of Ateneo, 5-0, and stayed unbeaten just like in the women's contest where its team is idle with a 2-0 card.

UP ripped UE, 4-1, in the other men's game to climb to second place with a 3-1 card. UE slipped to third with a 1-3 record.

UP, behind Jose Adonis Santos' goal in the 17th minute, cruised to its second straight win with a 1-0 shutout of defending champion Ateneo in men's football Sunday at the Blue Eagles' home turf.

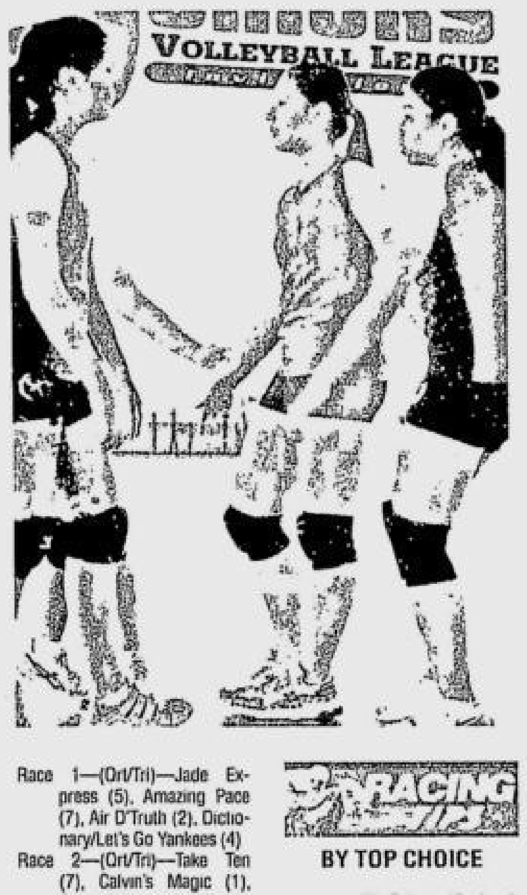
SPORTSWATCH

Greenaisance benefit golf up

THE LA SALLE GREEN HILLS BATCH '72 ALUMNI IS HOLDING THE GREENAIsance benefit golf tournament today at Forest Hills Golf & Country Club in Antipolo City. The event, according to tournament chair Rafael Perez de Tagle Jr., aims to raise funds for the benefit of the Adult Night High School (ANHS) Program of La Salle Greenhills. The ANHS, which offers free high school education, is now on its 25th year and has benefited over 6,500 less fortunate adults in both the formal and non-formal programs. De Tagle said attractive prizes and giveaways await the participants. Tee-off time is from 8-10 a.m. The awarding ceremony and raffles will be held at the clubhouse at 2 p.m.

GCAP derby features 65 fights today

SIXTY-FIVE QUALITY FIGHTS WILL BE STAGED AT SAN JUAN COLISEUM TODAY as the third leg of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines(GCAP) 5-cock derby series resumes at 5 p.m. Ricky Valencia (Scorpio entry) clinched the opening leg last Dec. 28 while Boy Royo copped the second leg (Jan. 10). Expected to be the top favorites today are the entries of Patrick Antonio (AS Sagupaan Winning Line) and Mayor Buddy Dunca/ Boy de Roca (Banjo), who recently emerged as co-champions in the "SJC 8-Cock International Derby." Meanwhile, the SJC Cockers Club 4-cock derb, another exciting cockfight series scheduled exclusively at San Juan Coliseum, resumes on Feb. 14. The P10.5M National Rambulan 8- cock derby starts on March 1. For inquiries, call 725 -5369 and 725-6563.



JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE: Young volleybelles huddle to discuss strategy at the start of the Toby's Sports Juniors Volleyball League, an inaugural tournament by one of the country's top sporting goods retailer, yesterday. The tournament, confined to high school teams, aims to boost the sports' grassroots program.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Jade Express (5), Amazing Pace (7), Air D'Truth (2), Dictionary/Let's Go Yankees (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Take Ten (7), Calvin's Magic (1), Coat of Arms (4), Winner Take All (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Heart of My Soul (2), Valiant Queen (5), Master Professor (2), Wing-Away (3)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Gem (8), Batang Westside (5), Eskapo (6), Lord Boni (2), Ideal Case (7)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Play It Again (3), Wico's In Charge (1), Mischievous (6), Sovereign Dancer (4)
Race 6—(Super G/Qrt/Tri)—Strong Jays (5), Long Hitter (3), Just a Moment (8), I Miss You (4), Sakura Ijhay (7), Rafafox (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Odyssey (4), Passing Through (9), Run Like D'Wind (2), Quant Je Puis (7), Speed Admiral (10)
Race 8—(Super G/Qrt/Tri)—Showman (7), Latin Music (4), Selectee (2), X Pure Energy (11), Rock Attack Attack (10), Kaon Yoks (9)

RP team rules international paintball league tournament

TEAM PHILIPPINES emerged overall champion in the amateur division of the first Asian-hosted international paintball league competition held recently, besting 24 other teams from 16 countries.

The Philippines' seven-member Team Infinity outscored its rivals from Malaysia and Thailand, which scored 313 and 284, respectively.

Finishing first runner-up during the competition's second leg, the Filipinos notched enough points in the third leg to snatch the championship title from Malaysia's X-Xtioner team and Thailand's Athena team.

Team Infinity gathered a total of 318 points from the second and third legs of the Paintball Asia League Series (PALS) competition that ended in Malaysia Dec. 7-10.

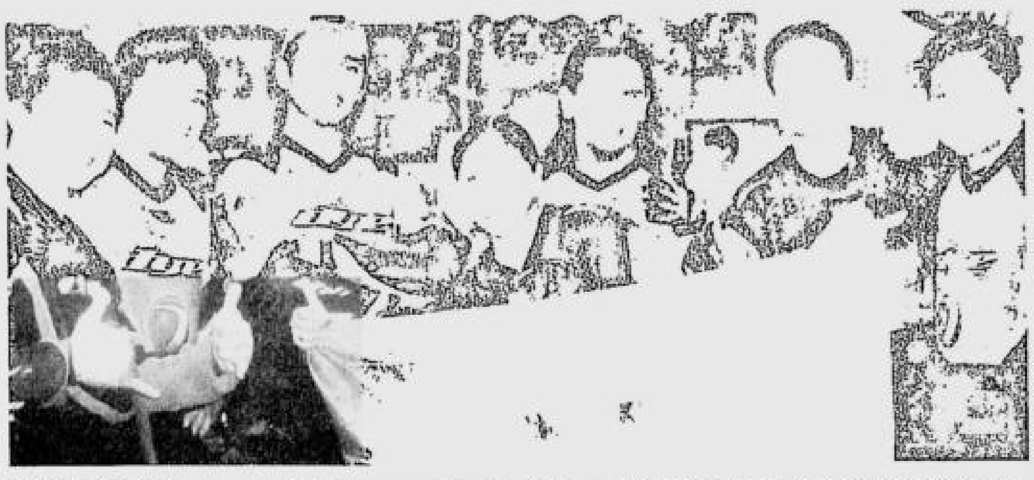
The three-leg contest began in Taiwan last May and continued in Thailand last August.

Team Infinity is composed of Alex Gianan, the team captain, and members Mark Gandia, Mark Saquing, Mary Ann Saquing, Howard Edillor, Joel Codotco and Jade Feliciano.

Other countries that participated in the PALS competition were the United States, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, Brunei, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, India, Belgium, South Africa and Iran

In the professional division, the Philippine team Gotcha Brownmen topped the competition's first leg. The total points it gained by the end of the competition, however, ranked it only fourth place overall.

Paintball, a relatively young competitive sport, has bred major leagues in the US and Europe. In Asia, two major regional paintball competitions—the Nations Cup in 2004 and the Asia Pacific Paintball Championship in 2005—had been held, but league series competition began only last year with the establishment of PALS.



TEAM Infinity is composed of team captain Alex Gianan (right) and members (from left) Jade Feliciano, Joel Codotco, Howard Edillor, Mary Ann Saquing, Mark Saquing and Mark Gandia.

Antonio tops 2 int'l derbies in 2 weeks

PATRICK ANTONIO, REGARDED as the Philippines' *sabong* idol and an accomplished businessman, posted a record that may be hard to duplicate: successive championships in two international derbies in a span of two weeks.

Antonio first bagged the 123-entry "World Slasher Cup 8-cock Invitational Derby" on Jan. 20 at the Araneta Coliseum when his entry, AS Sagupaan Winning Line, racked up seven wins against one loss.

A week later, Antonio fielded the same prized fighters known as golden fowls from the Sagupaan Farms and ruled the 122- entry "SJC International 8-cock derby" at the San Juan Coliseum. His entry tallied seven wins and one draw.

Toting a clean slate of four wins going into the SJC finals, Antonio's bet defeated the eventual runner-up, Lito Orillaza and Rudy Salud's Makati International Feb. 5, 7 and 9, then trounced Blue Blade 3M Feb Cebu and WWW Swing Com.

Gunning for solo championship in the last fight, AS PA Winning salvaged a draw against RGP Lousiana of Ompong and Boyet Plaza of Agusan.

It was an incredible display of strength, stamina and unmatched courage for Antonio's feathered warrior. Fighting with a broken left leg in the first 30 seconds of the initial encounter, the tough and proud Sagupaan warrior stood its ground for 10 minutes against the unscathed opponent, pecking up to the last second of the encounter for a draw.

ANTONIO

NBA TODAY ON BASKETBALL TV
8 a.m.—Boston vs Indiana (replay at 4 p.m.)
10:30 a.m.—Milwaukee vs Miami
(replay at 9:30 p.m.)

Garnett helps Wolves snap hot Suns streak

MINNEAPOLIS—KEVIN GARNETT ALMOST single-handedly ended the Phoenix Suns' 17-game winning streak, scoring 44 points and grabbing 11 rebounds in the Minnesota Timberwolves' 121-112 victory in the NBA on Monday.

All-Star forward Garnett was everywhere in the final period against the Suns, dropping turnaround jumper after turnaround jumper to give Phoenix its first loss of 2007.

He scored 15 points in the fourth, including a looping fallaway from the baseline that gave Minnesota a 118-109 lead with 1:55 to play, and put new coach Randy Wittman on the way to a win in his home debut.

"It's just about being a presence," Garnett said. "It's about making them have to deal with me. I will continue to take that approach."

Raja Bell scored 26 points and Steve Nash had 20 points and 18 assists for the Suns, who were looking to tie for the fourth-longest winning streak in NBA history.

"Better to lose that way than to lose when we beat ourselves," Nash said. "Kevin was sensational. We just didn't make shots at the end at the clip Kevin was making them."

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson had another high-scoring game against the Orlando Magic, putting up 34 points to help the Hawks answer a third-quarter challenge in a 93-83 triumph.

Johnson, who had averaged 31.8 points in the Hawks' last five wins over Orlando, scored 22 in the second half.

Orlando pulled to within 48-47 early in the third quarter before the Hawks answered with 13 straight points. Johnson capped the run with a pull-up jumper for a 61-47 lead.

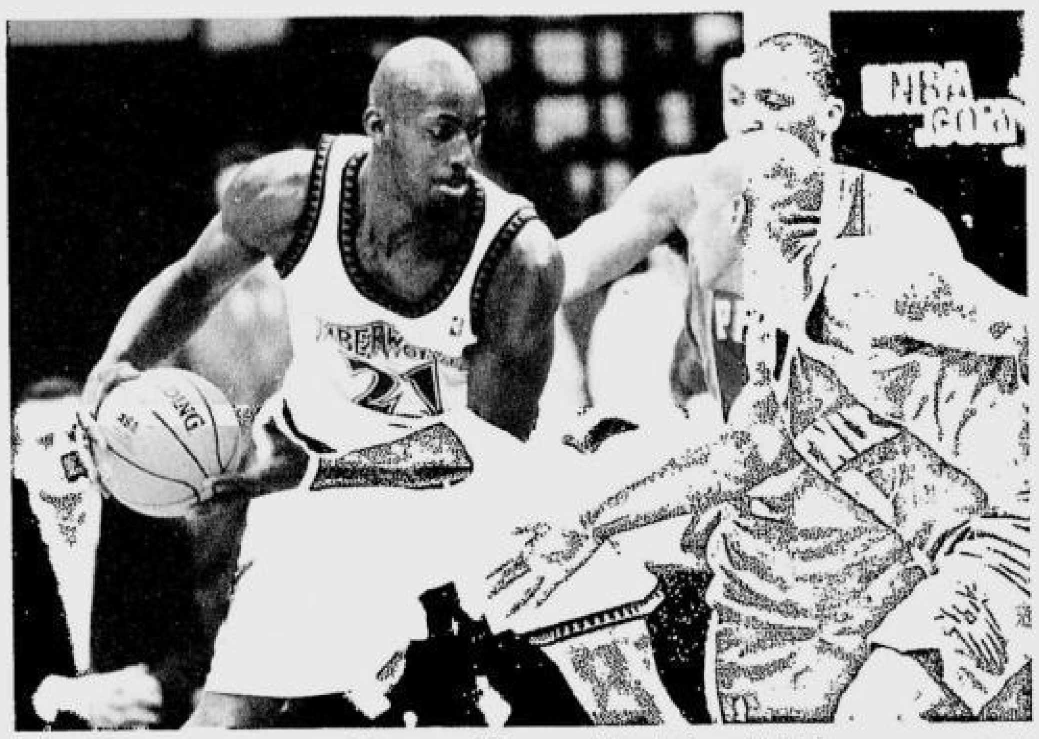
Orlando lost its third straight, including two to Atlanta in four days.

Grant Hill led the Magic with 21 points.

In Oklahoma City, David West had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Jannero Pargo scored 12 straight points for the New Orleans in the fourth quarter to help the Hornets whip the Portland Trail Blazers, 103-91.

Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 16 rebounds for his seventh double-double in the past 11 games for the Hornets, who have won their past six home games.

Zach Randolph led Portland with 20 points.



EVEN a constant double team fails to stop Minnesota's Kevin Garnett (left). REUTERS

Rookie Brandon Roy added 19 points.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Pau Gasol scored 34 points and Mike Miller added 27 to lead the Memphis Grizzlies past the Sacramento Kings, 124-117.

Chucky Atkins came off the bench to score 22 points, including 13 in the final quarter, to help the Grizzlies win for only the third time in 10 games.

Behind Gasol, Miller and Atkins, the Grizzlies shot 58.6 percent and outrebounded Sacramento 47-25. Gasol was 14-of-17 from the field and scored 12 points in the fourth quarter.

Mike Bibby led Sacramento with 23 points and Kevin Martin, the Kings' leading scorer, finished with 22.

In Houston, Tracy McGrady scored 25 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and Rafer Alston had nine of Houston's season-high 31 assists in the Rockets' 105-84 thumping of the Philadelphia 76ers.

Juwan Howard added 20 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as the Rockets held an opponent to 85 points or fewer for the third straight game.

Samuel Dalembert had 13 points and 11 rebounds and Andre Iguodala scored 19 points for Philadelphia.

In Salt Lake City, Vince Carter made a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift New Jersey to a tense 116-115 victory over the Utah Jazz and give the Nets back-to-back victories to end their five-game road trip.

Carter scored 29 of his 33 points in the second half, including a one-handed dunk that got New Jersey within 114-113 of Utah with 6 seconds left.

Mehmet Okur led the Jazz with 18 points and 11 rebounds and Paul Millsap finished with 16 points and 12 boards. Utah was playing without leading scorer and rebounder Carlos Boozer (knee) and coach Jerry Sloan, who missed the game with the flu.

In Denver, Gerald Wallace scored 25 points and had a key block of Carmelo Anthony in the final minute as the Charlotte Bobcats sent the Hornets to a third straight loss, 105-101. *AP*

De la Hoya eyes trainer Roach for sellout bout vs Mayweather

DE LA HOYA

ROACH

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Fight fans made the May showdown between Oscar de la Hoya and unbeaten Floyd Mayweather Jr a sellout, buying more than 5,400 tickets in three hours on Saturday, promoters announced Monday.

The crowd is expected to set a record live gate of $19 million on May 5 at the MGM Grand, surpassing the old mark of $16,860,300 for the 1999 heavyweight unification showdown between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis.

"This is a huge success right out of the gate, unparalleled in boxing," said Richard Schaefer, chief executive of De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions.

De la Hoya has won world titles in six weight classes while Mayweather has won world titles in four weight classes.

World Boxing Council junior middleweight champion De la Hoya enters 38-4 with 30 knockouts while WBC welterweight champion Mayweather, 37-0, with 24 knockouts, moves up a weight class in the showdown of superstar US fighters.

De la Hoya is expected to announce the identity of his trainer on Tuesday. Floyd Mayweather Sr., who has worked with de la Hoya since 2001, has asked for $2 million to train De la Hoya against his estranged son.

In his ESPN column, Dan Rafael said Freddie Roach is the current frontrunner to take the place of Mayweather Sr. in De La Hoya's corner.

Roach is popularly known as Manny Pacquiao's trainer and is largely credited as the man who helped the Filipino ring sensation reach newfound heights in the sport.

Roach has trained several world champions, including the likes of Mike Tyson and James Toney, and the former fighter is straight out of the school of the late revered trainer Eddie Futch.

Also being eyed to train De La Hoya is Teddy Atlas, although initial talks bogged down because of the logistical and scheduling problems brought about by the fight.

Logistical problems may also crop up with Roach since the American is set to prepare Pacquiao for an April 28 fight against Korean In Jin Chi.

Mayweather Jr., nicknamed "Pretty Boy Floyd," fired his father as his trainer eight years ago and has worked with his uncle, Roger Mayweather, since then. *AFP*

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Vinci, Ivanovic advance at Pan Pacific tourney

TOKYO—Qualifier Roberta Vinci of Italy upset eighth-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia on Tuesday at the Pan Pacific Open.

Vinci took advantage of five double faults by Hantuchova on her way to a 6-4, 6-4 win in the first round of the $1.3 million tournament.

Vinci, who is 119th in the WTA rankings, broke Hantuchova to go up 5-4 in the second set and then served out to win the match in 1 hour, 19 minutes at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

In other first-round matches, Ana Ivanovic of Serbia defeated American Shenay Perry.

Ivanovic, seeded fifth, needed just 53 minutes on her way to a 6-4, 6-2 win over the unseeded Perry.

Top-seeded Maria Sharapova of Russia, who won this tournament in 2005, has a first-round bye along with defending champion Elena Dementieva.

Second-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland also has a first-round bye.

SHARAPOVA AP

HINGIS REUTERS

Australian Nicole Pratt rallied for a 6-7(4), 6-1, 6-4 win over American Meghann Shaughnessy. Both players were unseeded.

In other matches, France's Severine Bremond downed compatriot Marion Bartoli, 6-0, 6-2, while China's Na Li, seeded sixth, overpowered Lilia Osterloh of the United States, 6-3, 6-2. *AP*

SBP to BAP...

From page A29

will serve as chair of the SBP.

Go, who yesterday declared that the BAP was not attending the Unity Congress, is trying to get the BAP back into the POC.

Interestingly, Go, who resigned as special assistant to Cojuangco last month, was the same man who helped the POC expel the BAP.

"We've decided not to attend the congress," Go told the INQUIRER.

"For us, the unification process is unfair, if not one-sided," he added.

Go cited the impending presidency of Pangilinan as the reason for the boycott.

Go stressed that Pangilinan was tapped as mediator in the three-man panel designated by the Fiba to fix the long-running leadership struggle in the sport.

"He (Pangilinan) was supposed to be the mediator but now he's being groomed as the president," said Go, who floated the idea of Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann attending the congress.

Eala, however, countered that "there is no provision or clause in the Tokyo agreement that bars Mr. Pangilinan from assuming the presidency of the SBP."

Go, however, said he is willing to sit down with SBP officials before the congress.

"A meeting should be arranged as soon as possible so we could talk things over with the SBP," said Go.

Eala and Pangilinan were set to meet late last night to discuss the latest development with the BAP.

"The SBP is always open to any talks that could lead to the unification of basketball stakeholders," Eala said. "That much, we promised the Fiba. We will explore all avenues for unification."

However, Eala said that the BAP must abide by the conditions set by the SBP for any pre-congress meeting.

Eala had earlier told the INQUIRER that the SBP will meet with the BAP as long as the officials sent to the meeting are authotrized to make decisions in behalf of the organization, the officials come to the table with a detailed agenda and that the BAP will not try to derail the unification process.

"We are at a point where there is no more turning back as far as our efforts to consolidate all stakeholders are concerned," Eala said. "We are not going back to square one just because of this latest development."

The BAP and the PBA entered into an agreement in 2004 with regards to formation of national teams for different international competitions. Under the agreement, the PBA was tasked to form the team for Asian-level competitions.

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Gov't-First Pac talks for PTIC collapse

HK conglomerate yields right to match

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Standards for halal** products readied /B2
- **WB readies $11-M** loan to help BIR /B3
- **Jan. inflation** seen at 3.9-4.6% /B12

By Daxim L. Lucas

TALKS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND First Pacific Co. Ltd. bogged down yesterday evening, with the Hong Kong-based conglomerate yielding its right to a 6-percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) to another firm it also controls.

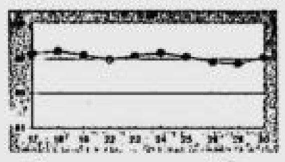
The move effectively buys more time for the group of PLDT chair and First Pacific managing director Manuel V. Pangilinan to raise the P25.2 billion needed to buy more shares in the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC).

Earlier yesterday, hitches continued to hound the transaction, with First Pacific set to pay only half of the promised P25.2 billion and the government committing to deliver half of the PTIC shares it owns.

According to Finance Secretary Mar-

GOV'T/B2

INDICATORS



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(See stock market report on Page B4)

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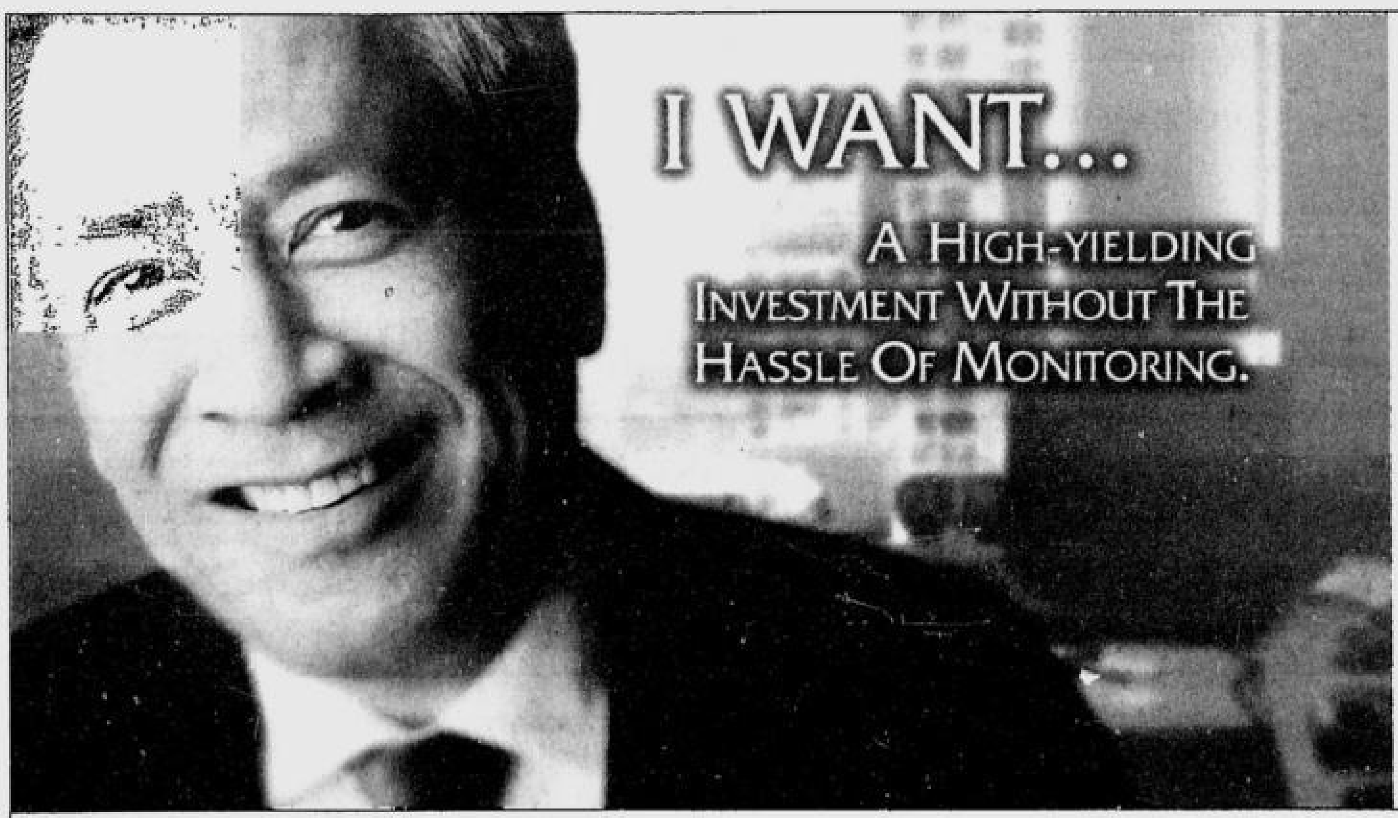

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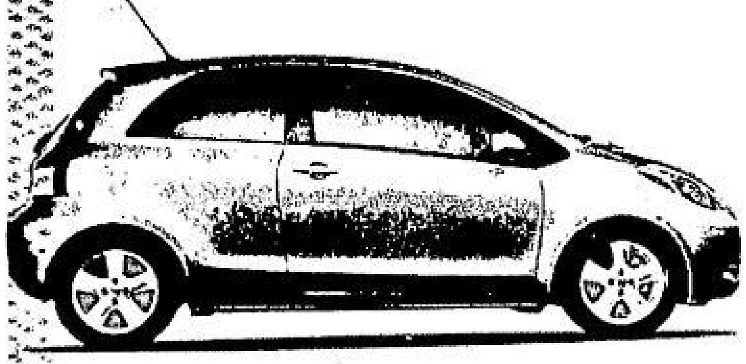
Standards for halal products readied



THE YARIS, to be made available in March, is Toyota's "strategic model"

TMPC seen expanding product lines this year

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES Corp. announced it was expanding its product lines this year amid expectations of slower growth compared to last year's 8 percent, with the Yaris hatchback to be positioned as its strategic model.

TMPC president Hiroshi Ito said the launch of the new models of the RAV4, Previa and Camry and the introduction of the Avanza last year had helped TMPC sell 38,200 units or about 38 percent of the total industry's sales.

The company last year topped the passenger car, commercial vehicles and overall categories in 2006 to cop the Triple Crown for the fifth straight year.

Ito said the country's top-selling models last year were the Innova minivan, Vios sedan and Fortuner sports utility vehicle.

At 8 percent, the company's sales growth in 2006 was almost triple the 3 percent posted in 2005.

"The year 2007 comes with bigger challenges not only for us but for the whole automotive industry," Ito said. "We are expecting a slow to moderate market growth this year, but we hope to be able to sustain, if not surpass, our sales and growth targets."

As for the Yaris, Ito said the model was aimed at the youthful, trendy and upscale market and would be available locally by March.

"The Yaris boasts of modern design, compact size, and fuel economy with its 1.5 automatic and manual transmission engines," he said. "This long-awaited model is aimed at strengthening the company's leadership in the passenger car category."

According to Toyota, the first generation model was named Car of the Year 2000 in Europe and was acknowledged as the safest car in its segment by EuroNCAP.

The next-generation Yaris came out in January 2006 and has already sold more than 374,000 units worldwide as of November last year. In Asia, the Yaris has already been introduced in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan.

The Yaris comes in two variants—1.5-liter automatic and manual transmission at P748,000 and P713,000, respectively, and are available in black, red, white, and silver. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Trade department organizing group to craft the guidelines

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY is preparing a national standard for Philippine halal food products to help domestic industries tap the $200-billion global Muslim food market.

According to Trade Undersecretary Carissa C. Evangelista, the lack of product standards—aside from a unified halal certification scheme—was one of major reasons why the development of Philippine halal trade has barely taken off.

"Trade of halal food is a lucrative industry not only because there are 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide but also because even non-Muslims patronize halal foods," Evangelista said. "People are learning to regard halal certification as a seal of food safety and quality assurance."

The official cited figures from Malaysia's Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs showing that the estimated value of the global halal food market could double to $400 billion in the next few years.

"Once the Philippine national standards on halal is in place, it would certainly address a lot issues and gaps for halal-producing small and mid-sized enterprises and help their products meet the market's standards," Evangelista added.

She said that the DTI's regional and provincial offices in Mindanao, together with the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion, were organizing a group to craft the guidelines for halal food, which can pave the way for the creation of the national standards for halal products.

But Abdul Rahman RT Linzag, president of the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines, said a system of halal certification can never be a government function especially in a country where Muslims are a minority.

IDCP—a nongovernment organization—is so far the only local agency that the Jakarta-based World Halal Council, Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and similar bodies recognize as a halal certifier.

Linzag said ensuring that food products are halal follows rules spelled out through Islam and not by laws of men. "Even the Supreme Court recognized this through a decision that said halal certification must not be done by a government agency."

Muslim consumers require that authorized bodies certify products as halal, an Arabic word that can be generally translated as "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refer to products that they are allowed to use, eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

On Dec. 23, 2005, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Memorandum Order No. 201 directing six government agencies to harmonize all government programs related to halal trade to ensure compliance with international standards and the effective implementation of the Halal Trade Development Program.

The order covers agencies such as the departments of trade, health, tourism, agriculture, and science and technology as well as the Office of Muslim Affairs.

The same order required a committee of representatives from the agencies to establish a PNS on halal food.

Purefoods seeks bigger market for halal brands

PUREFOODS HORMEL CO. IS GEARING UP for a more aggressive marketing campaign in the Middle East following the recognition by the United Arab Emirates of Purefoods Corned Beef and Chunkee Corned Beef as halal brands recently.

These products are now being sold in all supermarkets owned and operated by Al Maya Lals, one of the UAE's largest retail chains.

"This marks the beginning of a more aggressive foray into the halal market for Purefoods. Being the only Philippine brand recognized as halal by the UAE gives us a strategic foothold in this lucrative market," said PHC general manager Noel Tempongko.

Al Maya Lals owns 19 supermarkets in some of the emirate's busiest and most populous cities. It has been the local distributor of Purefoods products since 1996.

"This is a major development in our partnership with Purefoods," said Al Maya Lals director Ashok Purswani. "With its products now officially recognized as halal by the government, we will be able to cater not only to our loyal Filipino customers but also to the much larger Muslim market," he added.

Purefoods Chunkee Corned Beef and Purefoods Corned Beef were certified halal by the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines, the only halal-certifying body in the country recognized by the UAE. It is also a member of the World Halal Council based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

PHC generates close to P50 million in annual sales from the UAE. In the past, it exported mostly non-halal products such as Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdogs.

Mindanao eyes Indon partners for tourism ventures

LOCAL OFFICIALS AND BUSINESS LEADERS from three Mindanao towns are on a trade mission to Sangihe, Indonesia, to explore business tie-ups particularly those related to tourism, according to the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

The four-day trade mission that ends on Feb. 1 comes after the 3rd Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) Summit held in Cebu earlier this month.

During the summit, leaders of the BIMP-Eaga countries signed a memorandum of understanding that provided for the expansion of air links among them.

According to Medco, the trade mission was the third to be sent from Southern Mindanao's Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Saranggani-Cooperation Triangle (JAGS-CT), which is "positioning itself as the forerunner of dynamic local government involvement in the BIMP-Eaga."

Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani are towns in Davao del Sur and Glan is the oldest town of Saranggani province.

Sangihe is the main island of a group that bears the same name, located halfway between Sulawesi Island and Mindanao.

Of particular concern between JAGS-CT and Sangihe are ventures in the areas of education, training and socio-cultural development, tourism promotion and development, fisheries and marine resources, as well as trade and commerce.

Meetings set include those covering customs immigration quarantine and security (CIQS); port-to-port bilateral discussion on facilitating trade and improving security in the JAGS-CT-Tahuna trade zone, and a bilateral meeting between JAGS-CT officials and Sangihe parliament. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Gov't-First Pac talks . . .

From page B1

garito B. Teves, a share purchase agreement was to have been signed yesterday afternoon, but the deal would be consummated this afternoon.

"The actual payment and transfer of the first 50 percent of the shares will be done (today) during the signing of the deed of sale," he said in a text message.

It remains unclear when First Pacific, which already owns a 24-percent stake in the country's biggest telecommunications firm, will pay for the balance of the shares.

Japanese mobile phone giant NTT DoCoMo had earlier committed to acquire half of the stake that the government was privatizing. So far, however, it has not reaffirmed its commitment to the deal after the government was criticized for selling the shares at a discount to PLDT's current market price.

Amid persistent criticism of the deal, the finance chief yesterday reassured the public that the transaction was aboveboard.

"We made sure that full transparency was implemented throughout every step of the valuation and bidding process," he said.

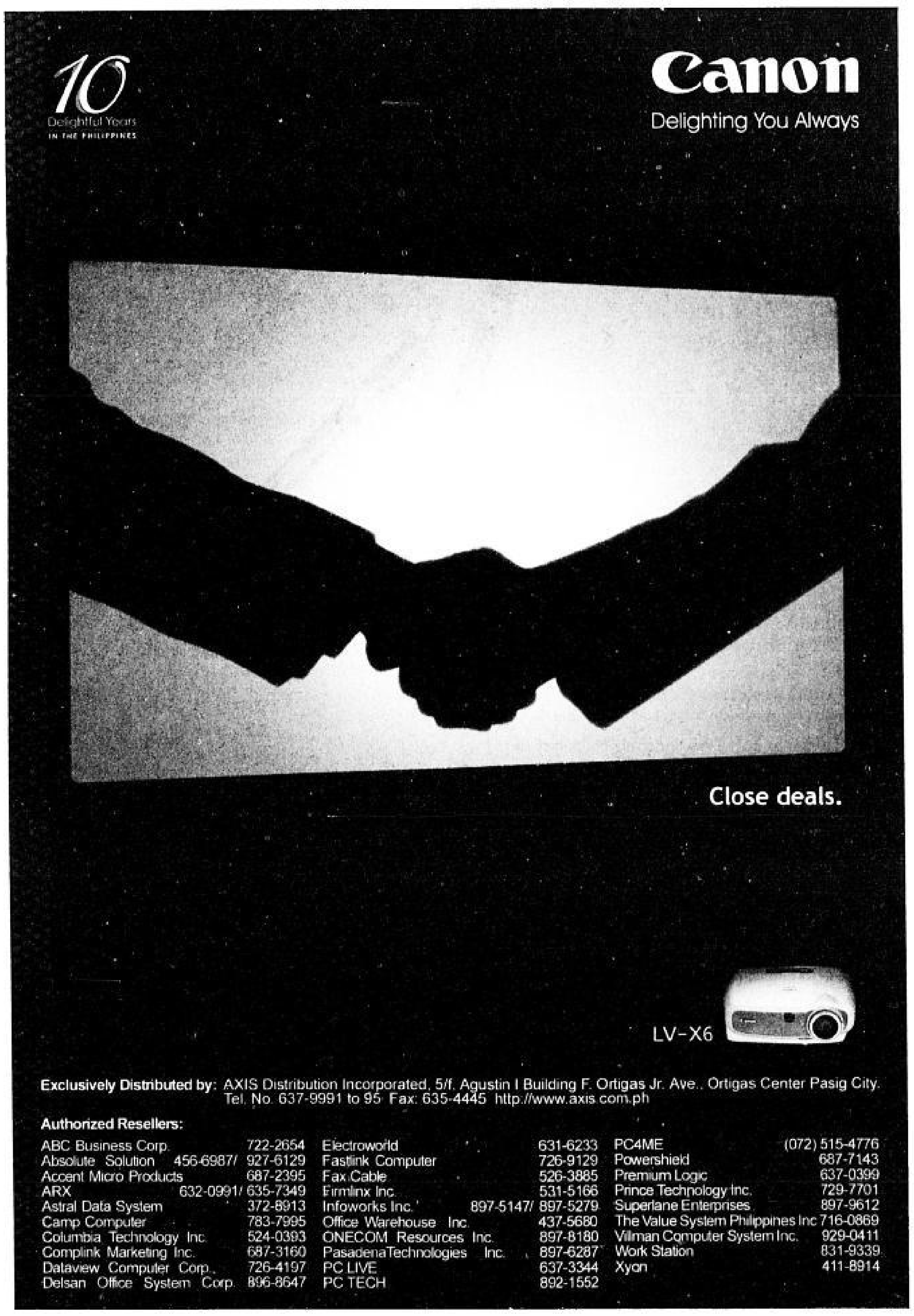
"Unlike PLDT shares, which can easily be traded in the stock exchange, and have an easily determined publicly available price, PTIC shares are not easily tradable, can only be sold subject to a right to match which can take over 60 days to execute, and do not come with direct voting rights in PLDT," Teves added.

Because of these limitations, he said that it was "expected" that the shares would trade at a discount to PLDT's market price.

First Pacific had until Feb. 1 to match the winning bid of Singapore-based Parallax Venture Fund, under a so-called "right of first refusal" accorded to existing shareholders.

Earlier, the government gave First Pacific a surprise reprieve for its bid to tighten its grip on PLDT by giving it two more weeks to pay for the controversial stake.

Teves explained that a delay in notifying a unit of First Pacific about its right of first refusal meant that the firm was also entitled to a separate 30-day period.



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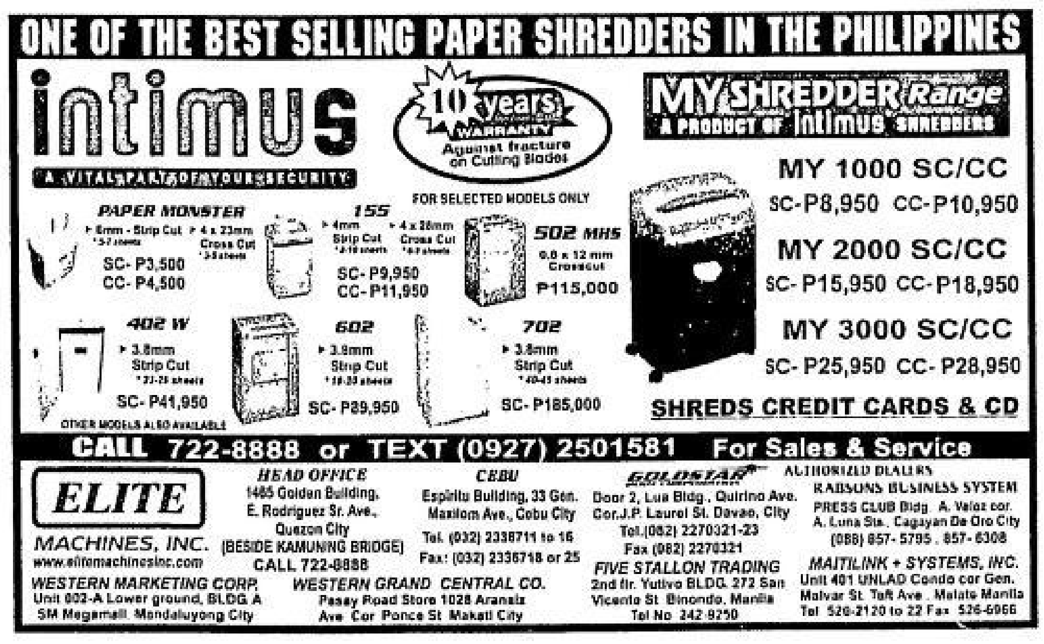

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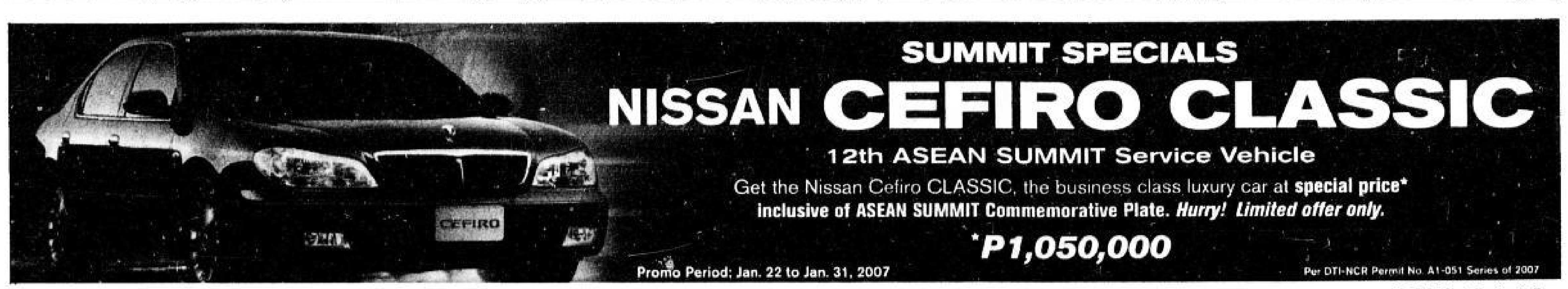

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WB readies $11-M loan to help BIR

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK IS SET TO APPROVE AN additional $11-million loan to help the Bureau of Internal Revenue shore up its tax collection.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said programs intended to support fiscal-sector development was still a priority of the government whenever it asked for foreign assistance.

"The fiscal sector will still be one of the top priorities until we balance the budget," Tan said.

The finance official said the the loan would be used to fund activities like improvement of the BIR's administrative processes and enhancement of its technological capabilities to make tax collection more efficient.

According to the description of the loan program, the financing is seen to increase taxpayer compliance and prepare the BIR for a sustainable long-term reform.

The $11-million loan will be in addition to the $13-million loan earlier approved by the World Bank for the improvement of the BIR's performance.

Tan said programs that would help improve tax collection by the BIR was necessary considering the anticipated increase in government expenditure this year. Congress is expected to approve the proposed P1.183-trillion national budget for 2007.

Last year, the government operated using the reenacted the P942-billion budget for 2005 due to the failure of Congress to pass the proposed 2006 national budget of P1.053 trillion.

The reenactment of the 2005 budget was the primary reason the government cut its budget deficit to a level lower than targeted.

Fiscal authorities set a budget deficit ceiling of P125 billion last year as against the P146.8 billion in 2005. Initial estimates showed that the deficit could have ended anywhere between P62 billion and P83 billion.

The government's ability to post a lower-than-programmed deficit last year was despite the shortfall in tax collection.

The BIR was officially tasked to collect P675.4 billion in taxes last year, but estimates showed it collected only P646.9 billion. The shortfall was partly attributed both to administrative inefficiencies of the BIR and economic developments beyond the agency's control.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag earlier stressed that the BIR should not be blamed for the shortfall as factors beyond its control such as the decline in interest rates, cut in the volume of government securities issued and inflation adversely affected its collections.

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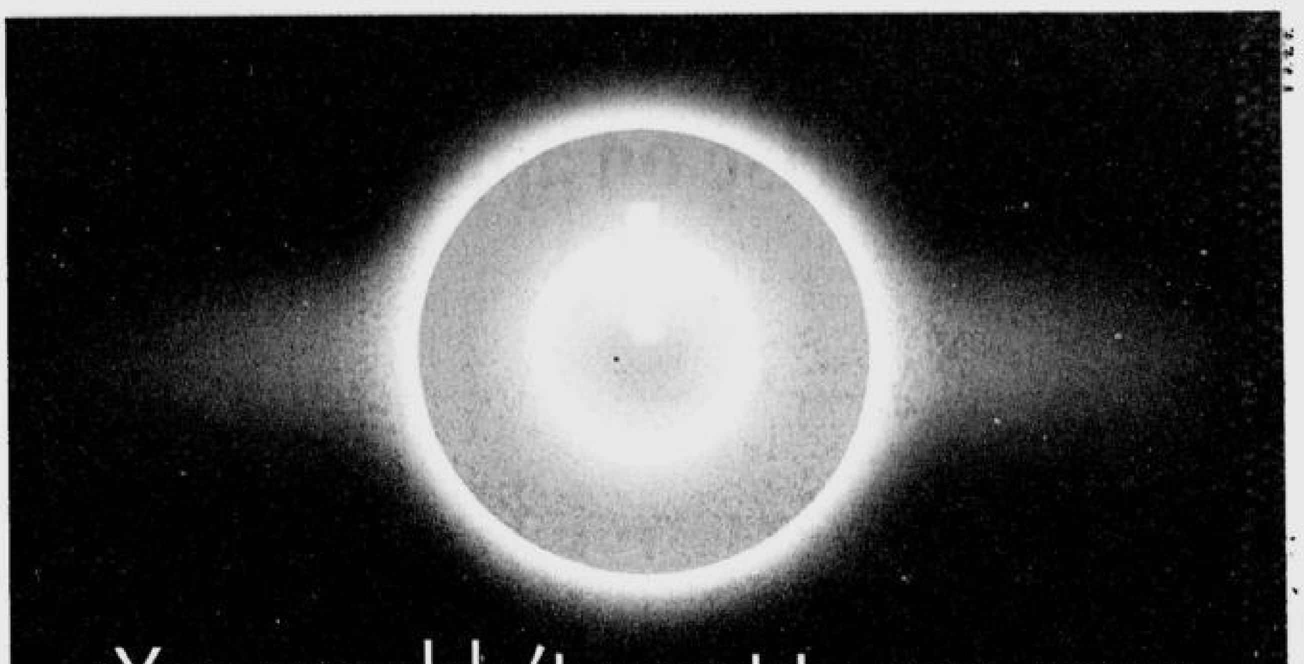
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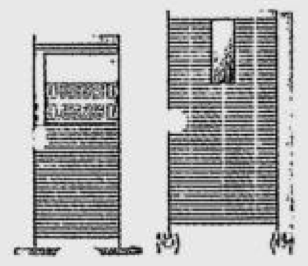

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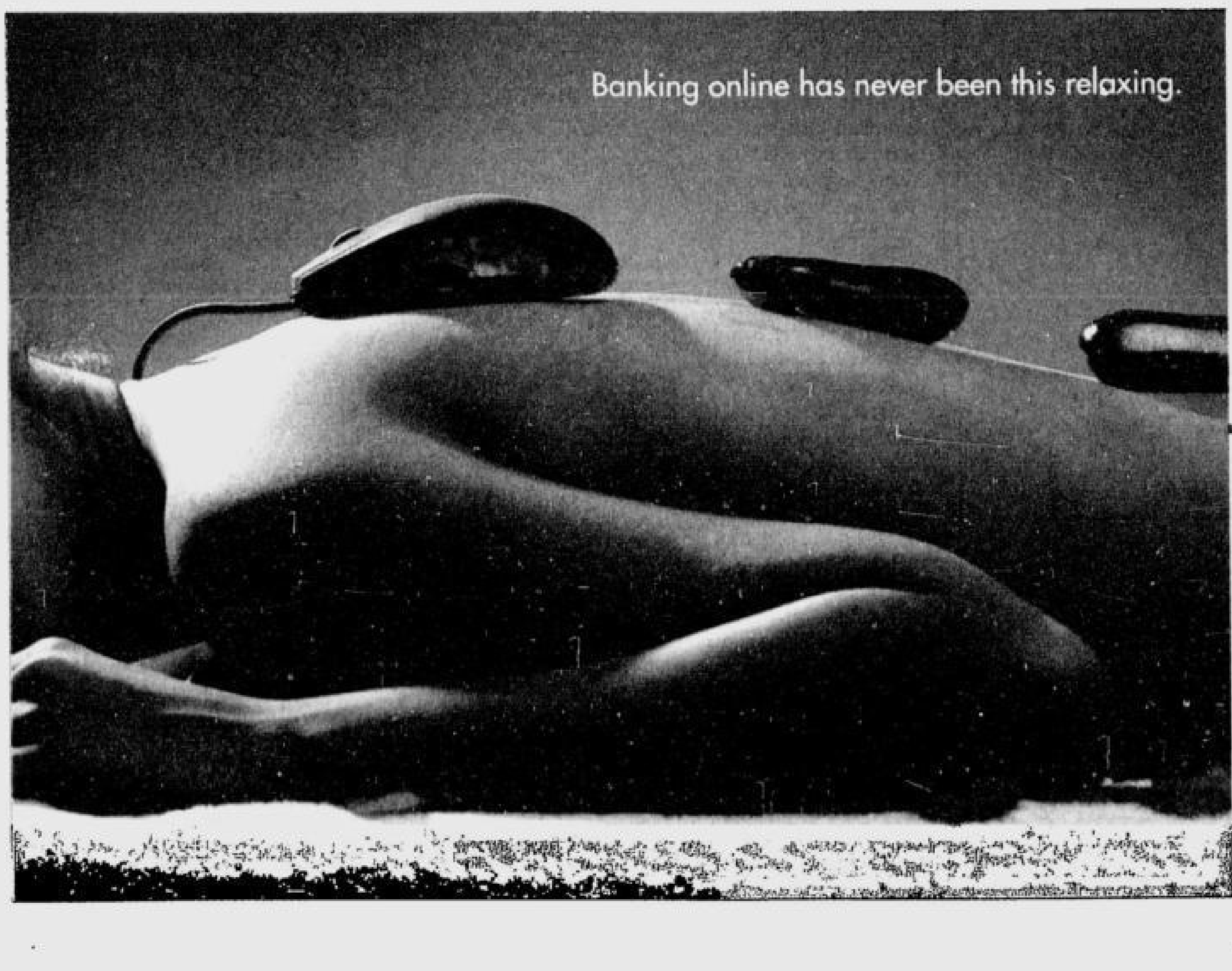
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Share prices rise on approval of '07 budget

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.60-PERCENT higher yesterday as investors welcomed the Senate's approval of the budget bill for 2007, dealers said.

The passage of the bill will now allow the government to spend more on infrastructure, education and health this year in a bid to spur economic growth, they said, even as the deficit continues to fall.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 19.3 points to 3,196.66.

The broader all-share index rose 12 points to 1,988.46.

Gainers led losers 57 to 56 with 47 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 1.5 billion shares worth P3.2 billion.

"The market cheered news that Congress has finally approved the 2007 budget," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"Investors also thought last Friday's steep correction was enough and that it is the right time to resume buying.

"We hope the market will be able to build a stronger base at the 3,200-point level so it won't be prone to big swings, like the one we saw last Friday," he added.

Under the P1.13-trillion budget approved by the Senate late Monday, spending on infrastructure will be increased by P75 billion, said Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya.

Last year the government was forced to work from the reenacted budget for 2005 when the opposition-dominated Senate refused to pass the bill.

Since she gained power in 2001 Arroyo has only had two budget's passed, in 2003 and 2005, which has prevented government spending on much needed infrastructure, health and education services.

Top-traded SM Investments Corp. rose a peso to P372.50. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was up P5 at P2,640. *AFP*

Manila Mining gets nod to explore Surigao site

By Daxim L. Lucas

PUBLICLY LISTED Manila Mining Corp. will begin exploration at its Surigao del Norte concession area, which is expected to yield deposits of gold and copper.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, Manila Mining said it had secured a renewal of exploration permit from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau's (MGB) regional office in Surigao City.

"Manila Mining is set to commence its exploration program as soon as possible," the firm's assistant corporate secretary, Odette A. Javier, said.

The firm said the permit would be valid for two years from the time it was issued and covered an area of 2,462.915 hectares.

One parcel of this site, equivalent to 286.63 hectares, is the subject of a joint-venture agreement between the firm and Anglo American Plc.

The site covers the area of Bayugo, which sits next to a large copper deposit in Boyongan, Surigal del Norte.

The MBG said a concerted effort between Manila Mining and Anglo American will accelerate the development of both mining areas.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 30, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.1	7.1	6.8	7	43,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	48.5	49.5	48.5	49	1,620,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	71	71	70.5	70.5	2,031,800
China Banking Corp.	685	685	685	685	38,320
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3,910,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	85.5	88	85.5	88	149,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	57.5	58.5	57	58	3,082,000
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	50	50	50	50	500
Philippine National Bank	48	48	48	48	22,000
Phil. Savings Bank	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	68,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	37.5	38	37	38	262,100
Security Bank Corp.	74	74.5	73.5	74	27,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	60	61	60	61	60,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	511,000
First Abacus Financial	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31.5	31.5	30	31.5	15,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1615	1615	1615	1615	600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	280,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	382.5	430	382.5	430	7,920
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2050	2050	2050	300
Ivantage Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	475,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	4.95	5	4.85	4.9	35,092,000
First Gen Corp.	55.5	56.5	55.5	56	2,156,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	72	73.5	72	73.5	476,000
Manila Electric Co. A	71	71	69.5	69.5	45,900
Manila Electric Co. B	71	71.5	70	70.5	1,603,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.2	9	9.1	1,042,000
Petron Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.25	4.25	26,603,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	990,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	466,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.5	119,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	43	43.5	42.5	42.5	1,665,500
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	20	24	20	24	4,100
RFM Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	161,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	20,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	80,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63	62.5	63	38,900
San Miguel Corp. B	75	75	74.5	75	304,900
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	15,000
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.04	2.04	406,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19	19	18.75	18.75	2,353,600
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.32	1.32	1.26	1.28	15,359,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.35	1,880,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	30,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.2	8.2	8	8.1	16,949,000
Republic Cement Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	390,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies, Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.95	1,823,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	0.8	0.83	0.8	0.82	60,040,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	62,020,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	620	630	620	625	253,960
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	610,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.3	13,254,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	9	9	2,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.08	0.08	23,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	332,000
APC Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,830,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	58,800,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.22	3,292,000
PAL Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	153,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	259,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.1	3.1	3	3.05	21,469,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	6.8	7.3	6.8	7.3	3,856,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	4.8	5.1	4.7	5	4,025,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	25,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.33	2,700,000
House of Investments Inc.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	286,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	3,249,500
Keppel Holdings B	1.98	2	1.98	2	161,000
Medco Holdings	0.31	0.42	0.31	0.4	20,840,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	487,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2	2.06	2	2	2,524,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	700,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	8,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	610,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,470,000
SM Investments Corp.	367.5	375	362.5	372.5	1,231,130
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.68	1.68	153,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	4,360,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.25	4,404,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.44	0.45	410,000
Belle Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	2,961,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.96	1,294,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	150,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	98,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.9	1.9	112,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.78	1.82	1.78	1.82	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	1,840,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	39,590,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	49,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	12,100,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	1,650,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	1,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	12,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	10,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	95,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.52	6,060,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	6,160,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.022	0.027	0.022	0.027	800,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.6	73,073,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6	392,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	450,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	2,700,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	16	16	15.75	16	1,858,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.65-	8,230,000
SM Development Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.35	22,314,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	3,392,200
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	510,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,700,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	22	21.5	21.75	73,800
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.94	6,730,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1290	1335	1290	1335	78,170
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	770,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2635	2640	2630	2640	83,580
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.32	36,600,000
Diversified Fin. Network	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.5	1,089,000
Ionics Inc.	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.85	2,580,000
IPVG Corp.	3.75	3.95	3.75	3.9	660,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.38	1.38	245,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.26	2.42	2.26	2.42	333,000
Philweb Corp.	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	122,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	91,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	25,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	24	24	23.75	24	831,600
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.06	2.06	2	2.02	945,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	350,000
Waterfront Phils., Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	700,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	18,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.04	820,000
Paxys Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.5	87,900
Philippine Seven Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	205,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	93,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	100,400,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.2	432,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.4	9.5	9.4	9.5	91,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	82,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	22,380,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	268,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	23,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	84,200,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	2,387,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	17.5	19.5	17.5	19.25	1,186,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.74	1,430,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.56	1,088,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	137,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	61,900,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	44,600,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	22,700

CURRENCIES

January 30, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.772141	1.000000	49.1560
Japan	Yen	0.006344	0.008216	0.4039
United Kingdom	Pound	1.514092	1.960900	96.3900
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.098850	0.128020	6.2930
Switzerland	Franc	0.616135	0.797957	39.2244
Canada	Dollar	0.653360	0.846167	41.5942
Singapore	Dollar	0.501716	0.649773	31.9402
Australia	Dollar	0.596018	0.771903	37.9437
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.048229	2.652661	130.3942
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.206025	0.266823	13.1160
Brunei	Dollar	0.500091	0.647668	31.8368
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000110	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.022577	0.029240	1.4373
UAE	Dirham	0.210255	0.272301	13.3852
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.295100	63.6619
Korea	Won	0.000822	0.001064	0.0523
China	Yuan**	0.099317	0.128626	6.3227
Argentina	Peso	0.248677	0.322061	15.8312
Brazil	Real	0.361151	0.467727	22.9916
Denmark	Kroner	0.134237	0.173850	8.5458
India	Rupee	0.017497	0.022660	1.1139
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220549	0.285633	14.0406
Mexico	New Peso	0.069597	0.090135	4.4307
New Zealand	Dollar	0.538565	0.697496	34.2861
South Africa	Rand	0.105311	0.136388	6.7043
Sweden	Kroner	0.110657	0.143312	7.0446
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023421	0.030333	1.4910

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time—Jan. 29, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Jan. 29, 2007

Female grads make good in business, study says

Let's Go, GE Money Bank survey shows one of two succeed on first attempt

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONE OF TWO FEMALE college graduates succeed on their first attempt at running their own business, backed by strong encouragement and financial support from their families.

This was one of the findings of the survey conducted by Let's Go Foundation and GE Money Bank on 100 "growing" women entrepreneurs who had gone to college, mostly from middle- and upper middle-income families who are now in the food, manufacturing, services and retailing businesses.

The women entrepreneurs included in the survey have been in business for at least two years.

The survey, the first phase of a nationwide program to promote women entrepreneurship, aims to gain insights into women's problems, successes and attitudes.

This is part of the campaign of Let's Go and GE Money Bank to devise a curriculum tailored to the needs of future women entrepreneurs.

"An entrepreneurial culture will help uplift the quality of life of women, including their family, community, and aid in the economic development of the country," said Let's Go Foundation head Francisco Bernardo III, who presented the survey results at the Asian Institute of Management yesterday.

The survey said the success ratio among women was slightly over 50 percent, which means one of two do well on their first attempt to put up a business.

Some 23 percent succeeded after one failed attempt, while the rest succeeded after two or more attempts.

Bernardo said 43 percent of the women entrepreneurs surveyed found college professors teaching business as most useful in growing their firms, contrary to the common notion that workshops and learning through experience were the only ways to learn business.

"It is therefore essential to optimize the learning experience of every aspiring entrepreneur by equipping teachers with the right classroom materials," he said.

The survey showed that 65 percent of growing women entrepreneurs—or those who had a track record in business of more than two years—had worked in a private corporation before going on their own.

The survey also found that more than half of the women entrepreneurs came from families where both or at least one of the parents was also in business.

Influence from the family was thus noted as a significant factor behind the entrepreneur's success, with 61 percent of the entrepreneurs saying they had drawn inspiration from their family.

"If you're looking for money, it's right in your backyard," Bernardo said.

Over 70 percent of the women entrepreneurs said their mother was into business.

But some 25 percent also said they made it in their field even if none of their parents was an entrepreneur.

Some 59 percent of them started their business with partners. The top consideration for choosing a partner was family membership or closeness to the family.

The survey also showed that the entrepreneurial culture is strongest among women in the 30s age group, with 38 percent of the respondents aged 30 to 39, half of which are still single.

Some 31 percent of the respondents were below 30 years old, 21 percent were aged 40-49 and 10 percent were aged 50-59.

Close to half of the sampled respondents were from Metro Manila.

Also, 47 percent of them had a business-related college degree.

When asked what they consider their best attribute as a entrepreneur, 45 percent mentioned "passion," 14 percent cited "dedication" and 10 percent replied "foresight."

Asked to identify which functions and management processes they experienced serious problems with, 34 percent answered human resource management, 33 percent said financial planning and budgeting and 33 percent cited competition.

Let's Go Foundation and GE Money Bank are now developing a teaching program to be rolled out to pilot schools in 2007. Based on the results, the program will be enhanced for wider implementation across the country, targeting women's colleges in the future.

Gov't workers oppose Peza role in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—The three labor unions of the state-owned Clark Development Corp. have joined the campaign to restore tax incentives to this economic zone's more than 300 companies.

The Association of Concerned CDC Employees (Acces), Association of CDC Supervisory Personnel (ACSP) and Association of Corporate Executives (Ace) launched the "Act Now Movement" as the Philippine Economic Zone Authority started urging Clark-based firms to sign contracts for tax breaks.

Carlos Cabrera, Acces president, said the "imposition of a Peza-like regime of investment incentives would drive away existing and future investments at Clark."

New rules by Peza would also make Clark lag behind the Subic Bay Freeport, he said.

The two American military bases-turned-ecozones are supposed to be a single economic corridor in the government's new development plan.

Peza stepped in on Jan. 15 on the strength of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 1035, which made Clark's 33,765 hectares a part of the areas to be regulated by the Peza.

Former CDC president Antonio Ng said the proclamation, signed on March 10, 2006, sought to provide an "interim solution" so that locators could enjoy some tax privileges since the CDC could not offer incentives.

Cabrera said it turned out that the Peza terms differed entirely from what the locators received prior to a July 2005 order of the Supreme Court that removed the incentives.

Companies here used to pay a tax of only 5 percent of gross income.

The high court later ruled that Republic Act No. 7227 or the bases conversion law granted the privileges only to locators at the Subic Freeport in Bataan and Zambales.

The versions of the tax amnesty and incentives bills in both the Senate and the House of Representatives were found to be "not equitable" to investors and Clark, he said.

Both situations, he said, would lead to the "death" of Clark.

At stake are almost 50,000 workers from Pampanga and other parts of Central Luzon and the local economies of Pampanga and Tarlac, he said.

CDC president Levy Laus said, however, that the tax incentive issue has not appeared to have discouraged investments or employment.

In 2006, at least 11,388 new jobs were created, mostly by the opening of SM City Clark and business process outsourcing companies, he said.

These raised the employment record at Clark to 47,481, he said.

Exports in Clark were up 4.7 percent in 2006 to $1.077 billion. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Isuzu offers best-value deal with Crosswind XTi variant

WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDing the pulse of the Filipino consumer, Isuzu Philippines Corp has no rival in all of the local auto industry. The diesel authority, which has been championing local tourism and entrepreneurship with dependable and cost-effective commercial vehicles, once again delivers a product that is bound to be a hit among budget-conscious Pinoy vehicle buyers.

The new Crosswind XTi boasts luxurious features that do not necessarily translate to a steep price tag. The features vis-à-vis the price are such a steal that Isuzu has dubbed the Crosswind XTi as a "Best Value, Best Buy" vehicle.

Like all 2007 Crosswind variants, the XTi has a restyled front grille and new-design 15-inch alloy wheels, giving it a sporty but elegant exterior. At the sides, the Crosswind XTi has anti-blind side lens that are tastefully wrapped in retractable chrome housing complete with LED turn lights. One look and images of a spiffy sport-utility vehicle come to mind.

But the XTi's cabin is where the big story lies, starting with a very modern-looking and highly functional Clarion CD/MP3 player that even has an integrated USB port. Plug in your personal flash drive with all your favorite MP3 files, and you have a rolling jukebox on the highway.

The seats are also new, with the front-row bucket seats sporting a gray sport/vinyl jersey material. The second-row seats fold and tumble and are split 70/30. The third-row seats, meanwhile, are front-facing and can also be folded and detached. Now more than ever, the Crosswind offers unparalleled versatility for both passenger transport and cargo hauling.

As with all 2007 Crosswind models, the XTi is now equipped with a Euro-2-compliant 2.5-liter 4JA1 direct-injection turbo-diesel engine. This means that the tried-and-tested Isuzu diesel engine is now truly environment friendly aside from being fuel-efficient.

The Crosswind XTi ride still glides on Isuzu's acclaimed Flex Ride Move Suspension System that approximates the ride comfort of a passenger sedan.

Available in Tornade Red, Sterling Silver and Forest Green, the Crosswind XTi is priced at a very competitive P899,000. Best of all, it comes with an unbeatable three-year/100,000-km warranty.

Indeed, Isuzu has raised the bar once again in terms of true value for money in the AUV class. Don't miss out on this incredible deal. Visit your nearest Isuzu dealership today and drive the new Crosswind XTi. It's one proposal that's too good to turn down.

In Metro Manila, Isuzu dealerships can be found in Edsa Balintawak, Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth, Pasig, Manila, Makati and Alabang. In the provinces, Isuzu dealerships are located in Isabela, Pangasinan, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, San Pablo, Bacolod, Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro and Davao. Check also www.isuzuphil.com for other Isuzu updates.

K of C essay writing contest winners announced

PRECIOUS MAE A. BERNASOL, A 16-YEAR-old 4th year student of the Augustinian Abbey School, was declared champion of the "On-the-spot Essay Writing Contest in Filipino" sponsored by the Immaculate Conception 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 2878 at the SM Southmall held Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day.

She won a 4-year college scholarship (Bachelor of Science in Information Technology) donated by the Informatics International College; P10,000 cash donated by Pagcor; and a trophy. Her school received a plaque of recognition.

Other winners were: 1st runner-up Ruth B. Bonagua, a 16-year-old 4th year student of Las Piñas National High School, who won a 2-year computer scholarship course donated by the Informatics Computer Institute and P7,000 cash donated by Pagcor and a trophy. Her school received a plaque of recognition. 2nd runner-up Richell Marie P. Demagante, 16-year-old 4th year student of the University of Perpetual Help System-Dalta, won a 2-year computer scholarship course donated by Informatics Computer Center, P5,000 cash donated by Pagcor and a trophy. Her school received a plaque of recognition. Honorable mention awardees are Soledad G. Martorillas, 15 years old, 3rd year student of the Las Pinas East National High School; Maria Oryza F. Martinez, 16-year-old 4th year student of the University of Perpetual Help System-Dalta, and John Kevin Paulo C. Biadomang, 14-year-old 3rd year student of Saint Francis of Assisi College, who all received trophies.

The board of judges were Dr. Lilia F. Antonio of UP Diliman, as chairperson; professor Patrocinio V. Villafuerte of the Philippine Normal University, and Virginia Lizardo-Cangco of San Beda College, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa as members.

The assembly's faithful navigator SK Felix D. Morales said the patriotic project will be a yearly activity to promote patriotism in our high schools and enhance the capability of these students in writing an essay in Filipino.

SHOWN, 2nd from left, are 2nd runner-up Richell Marie P. Demagante; champion Precious Mae A. Bernasol; and 1st runner-up Ruth B. Bonagua flanked by Honor Guards of the Immaculate Conception 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 2878 during the awarding ceremonies on Bonifacio Day. SM Southmall, Informatics International College and Computer Institute and Pagcor were sponsors.

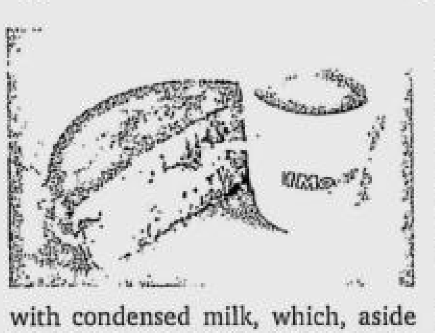
FIRST LIFE, SWISS LIFE CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

First Guarantee Life Assurance Co Inc (First Life) celebrates a decade of strong partnership with Swiss Life, the world's largest employee benefits network, at the recently concluded Asia Pacific Conference in Mumbai, India. Shown, at left, is First Life president and CEO Peter Coyiuto shaking hands with Swiss Life senior vice president and network head Margrit Schmid as Gaurang Shah, managing director of Kotak Life Insurance Ltd, partner and host in India, looks on. First Life, one of the country's leading insurers, has been the Philippine representative company of the Swiss Life Network since 1996 and provides group life insurance coverage for employees of multinational firms with local operations.

Half Moon opens in Baguio

STRAWBERRIES, CHOCOLATE flakes, peanut brittle, *ube*, and now "bibingcrepe". Add Half Moon's unique delicacies to the list of sought-after sweet treats as it opens its second branch in Baguio. Located at the Outlook Drive corner Apostol Street, Half Moon opened recently to a huge, intrigued crowd who all wanted to have a taste of the widely talked-about *bibingcrepe*.

As the name suggests, *bibingcrepe* is an innovative sweet snack that uses the ingredients and fillings of French crepes and is cooked in a special pan similar to our local *bibingka*. It is a thick crepe, folded in half and stuffed with the filling of your choice-from everyone's favorite cheese, peanut, corn and chocolate to the rich combination of chocolate and mango and the chocolate banana peanut mix. It is then topped with condensed milk, which, aside from the shape, lends further to the name Half Moon.



A recent addition to the store's menu is the "bibingcrisp". Shaped like a sugar cone, the *bibingcrisp* has a thin and crispy crust, is filled either with sugar, cheese or chocolate, and can be indulged with ice cream. Since its introduction, the *bibingcrisp* has been as much a favorite as the *bibingcrepe* by both the first time and regular customers.

The equally fascinated Manila crowd has enjoyed these tasty treats since the first branch opened along Tomas Morato, Quezon City, two years ago. Now, Baguio residents and tourists alike can savor and satisfy their sweet tooth as Half Moon opens close to the local attraction, the Mines View Park.

A concept born out of brothers Dennis and Dick Balajadia's out-of-the-country trips, *bibingcrepe* is a refreshing and most welcome spin-off to the rice cakes we all have been accustomed to eating come Holiday season. Now, everyone can enjoy the sugary half moons any day of the year.

Have your fill of *bibingcrepe* now. Visit the Half Moon branches at Tomas Morato, SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa and the latest one at Baguio.

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RAPIDÉ OPENS IN MARIKINA

Quick and hassle-free automotive repair and maintenance services using only state-of-the-art equipment manned by highly competent and highly trained technicians can now be availed of by residents of Marikina and nearby areas. Rapidé Auto Service Experts recently opened its 45th branch and 26th franchisee store in the country's shoe capital at 85 Gil Fernando Avenue corner Redwood, New Marikina Subdivision, San Roque, Marikina City. Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando, Rep. Del De Guzman and Councilor Efren De Guzman headed the ribbon-cutting ceremony. For more information on Rapidé's services and franchising, e-mail contactus@Rapidé.com.ph or log on to http://www.rapidé.com.ph.

Visa Great Rebate promo awards over P600,000 to 4 winners

FOUR VISA CARDHOLDERS HAVE WON back all the purchases they made on their Visa card for 2006. In succeeding draws two more lucky Visa cardholders will win back their 2006 Visa purchases of up to P500,000 each.

Christine Uy, a housewife and mother of four, was the winner in the first of six weekly electronic draws beginning Nov. 21. She was reimbursed P355,052.84 for purchases made on her Citibank Gold Visa card in 2006. The second winner, Earl Martin Jude Lacson, a student and Metrobank Visa supplementary cardholder, won P3,584.55.

Lester Burgos, an HSBC Visa cardholder, was the third lucky Visa cardholder and won a total of P164,934.55. Manfredo Marpa, a nurse-doctor and father of three from Iloilo, is the fourth winner with over P121,421.35 purchases on his Citibank Gold Visa card in 2006.

"I use my Visa card for purchasing clothes, shoes, gadgets, home appliances, airline tickets, books, and other stuff. It's very convenient," shared Marpa. "When I first found out that I won over P100,000, I couldn't believe it. The money will help us pay the tuition of the kids, insurance and other bills. We'll also donate some to help build our community's church. What's left we'll save for the future. A million thanks to Visa!"

"I try to use my Visa card in every transaction. It is so convenient since it is accepted at almost every establishment when I shop for gadgets, appliances, clothing, groceries and when I eat out with my girlfriend. It is also more secure since I don't have to carry cash with me all the time," added Lester Burgos. "I still can't believe that I won. My girlfriend and I will keep the money in the bank first until we are able to plan what to do with it."

Two more lucky Visa cardholders will get a chance to win back up to P500,000 in Visa purchases in the electronic draws that will be held until Feb. 2. Visa cardholders who make a single-receipt purchase with Visa for P500 or more from Nov. 12 to Jan. 30 may register the transaction for a chance to enter the lucky draw. Each lucky winner will be reimbursed with the total amount for all eligible purchases made on the winning Visa card from Jan. 1, 2006 to Dec. 31, 2006 or one day before draw date, whichever date comes first, up to P500,000 tax free.

"Visa believes that making payments should be as convenient, secure and rewarding as possible for cardholders," said Bob Joubert, Visa International country manager for the Philippines. "The Great Rebate promotion is an innovative and fun way to reward Visa cardholders for their loyalty."

The promotion is open to holders of Philippine-issued Visa Credit, Visa Debit and Visa Electron cards. Cardholders may register via the Internet (www.hbmlasia.com/visa) or by SMS. For SMS registration, cardholders need to simply text Visa to 2361 for Globe or 325 for Smart subscribers for full instructions.

NCLEX-RN PASSER

Maria Wilen Cuadra-Buyser successfully passed the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) taken at California Nov. 27. She is a cum laude graduate of the Metropolitan Hospital College of Nursing Batch 2006. She is the daughter of retired PNP General Enrique C. Cuadra and Wilda G. Jayco, wife to P/Insp Evans M. Buyser, mother to JB, LA, and JR.

DLSU-GSB, FEU-IL set admission exams

THE DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE School of Business (DLSU-GSB) and the Far Eastern University Institute of Law (FEU-IL) have tied up to offer the country's first post-graduate dual degree program in business and law. The MBA-JD Dual Degree Program is designed for students who intend to earn both a Juris Doctor degree (JD) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) concurrently. The admission exam dates are set for April 5, May 10 and 17 at the DLSU RCBC Campus and for April 12 at the DLSU Taft Campus. For more information, call 753-4616, 753-4618 or 753-4611 locals 101 or 107. E-mail dean Andres Bautista at abautista@feu.edu.ph or vice dean Tristan Macapanpan at tristan.macapanpan@dlsps.edu.ph.

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ATLAS COPCO CITES BEST PERFORMERS OF 2006

Atlas Copco Philippines Inc recently awarded its best employees during the 6th Annual Salesman of the Year Awards. According to Atlas Copco general manager Jonnie Regis, the event is the company's way of recognizing diligent employees whose efforts made Atlas Copco the leading provider of compressed air equipment in the Philippines. Melchor Bullanday, who won best in aftermarket product sales, also won the salesman of the year award. Atlas Copco also handed out 9 special awards to commend its dedicated personnel from various departments. The winners are Gerald Deluta, best in rental service; Mario Campano, service engineer with most number of productive hours; Danilo Yabut, highest in sales achievement versus target; Alexander Zamora, best in customer development; Elmer Casuga, service engineer with most number of product recommendations; Arman Baulita, best in quality air product sales and best in 'VSD' sales; and Hilario Nosis, service engineer of the year 2006. Atlas Copco Philippines Inc is a wholly owned subsidiary of Atlas Copco AB of Sweden. Since its establishment in 1967, it has grown to be a leading provider of industrial productivity solutions in the Philippines. Shown (from left) is Jonnie Regis, Atlas Copco CT general manager; Melchor Bullanday, aftermarket engineer; Beth Domingo, business controller; and Thelma Baticulon, secretary to the GM. Visit Atlas Copco at www.atlascopco.com.

Janiuay HS reunion set February 3

All members of Janiuay High School Class '57 are invited to the golden anniversary class reunion of Janiuay High School, West Visayas State University (Janiuay Campus) on Feb. 3 and 4. For more information, call/text Romeo L. Lamzon at 655-2102 or 0921-2748377, or Lamberto Marin at (033) 337-5127 or 0919-3507932.

Rate of oversubscribed 3-yr bond down to 5.4%

Sale of PTIC shares to PLDT seen to boost gov't standing

By Michelle V. Remo

THE RATE OF THE GOVERNMENT's three-year bonds yesterday registered another decline, as banks remained awash in cash and perception on the government's fiscal performance continued to improve.

The new average rate for the three-year bonds settled at 5.433 percent. There was a high volume of bids for the government securities.

The latest rate was 3.4 basis points lower than the 5.467 percent recorded in its reissuance last December, and 306.7 basis points lower than the 8.5 percent posted during the original issuance in February last year.

"The market is still very liquid and is clamoring for more (of the bonds)," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing yesterday.

Huge market appetite for the bonds was manifested by banks, which tendered P24.015 billion worth of bids—over three times higher than the government's debt offering of only P6 billion.

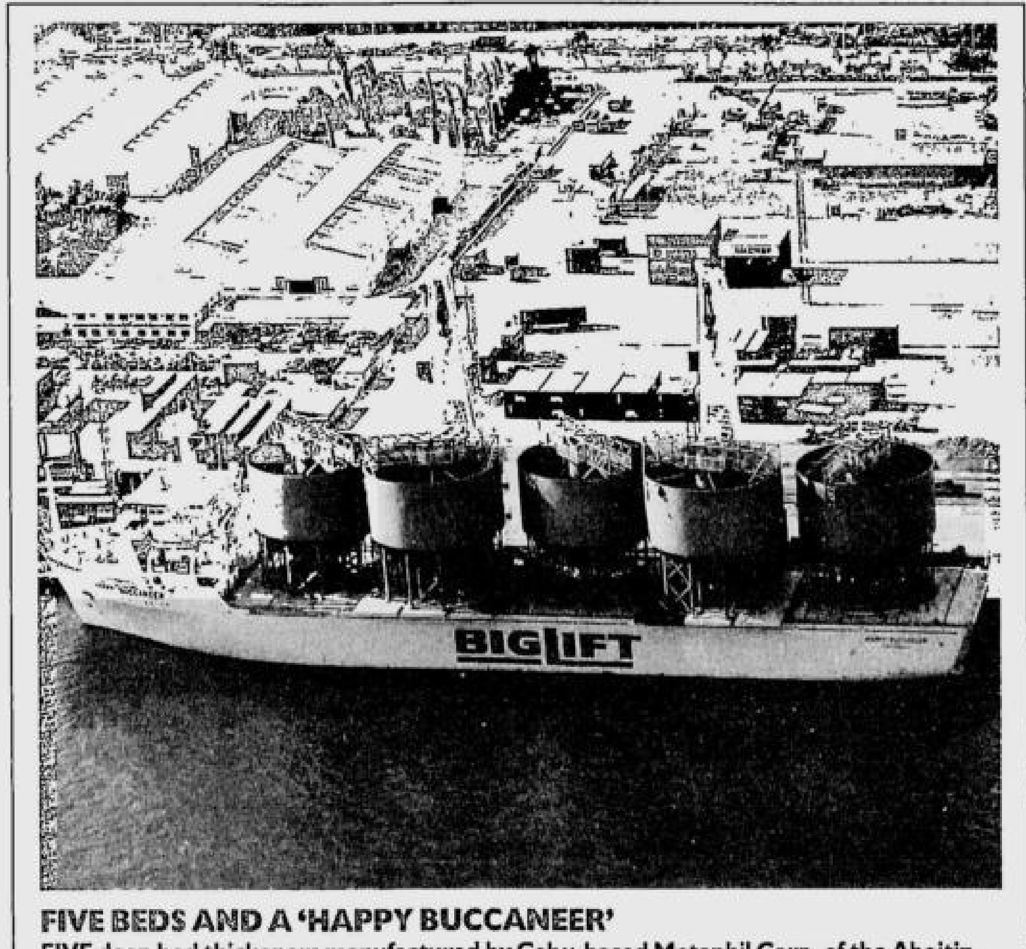
The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee did not borrow more than what was programmed, and accepted only P6 billion worth of bids despite the oversubscription.

Cruz said the optimism on the government's fiscal performance was boosted by the privatization of the state's 46-percent share in Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC), which holds a 6-percent share in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Turnover of the government's share to buyer First Pacific group, the other PTIC shareholder, will be held today. The government will earn P25.2 billion from the sale of its PTIC shares.

"(The sale of) PTIC shares has a big impact on the government's fiscal performance for this year," Cruz said.

He explained that the expected proceeds from the sale of PTIC shares was not yet factored in when the government set its fiscal program for 2007. Under the program, the budget deficit is supposed to be reduced to P63 billion from the ceiling of P125 billion for 2006.



FIVE BEDS AND A 'HAPPY BUCCANEER'
FIVE deep bed thickeners manufactured by Cebu-based Metaphil Corp. of the Aboitiz group set sail last week for New Caledonia on board the M/V Happy Buccaneer. Thickeners are devices designed to separate minerals from ore.

Go public, IC chief urges insurance firms

THE GOVERNMENT IS URGING INSURANCE companies to go public if they wish to raise funds and cope with the increase in capitalization requirement.

"(Going public) is another way to raise capital, and I think many would be encouraged now that the market is prolific," Insurance Commissioner Evangeline Escobillo told reporters at the sidelines of the induction of new officers of the Philippine Life Insurance Association held yesterday in Makati City.

The government has been urging companies to publicly list their shares to further boost the country's stock market.

Escobillo said three local insurance firms have expressed interest in publicly listing their shares.

Also, insurance firms are being encouraged to either merge or engage in revenue-generating activities that will help them comply with the higher capitalization requirement.

Under Department Order No. 27-26, which the Department of Finance issued last year, capitalization required of each Filipino-owned life and non-life firm will increase from P50 million to P75 million in December this year, to P100 million in 2008, to P125 million in 2009, to P175 million in 2010, and P250 million in 2011.

Insurance firms with foreign equity of 40 percent or less are directed to annually increase their capital to a minimum of P150 million in December 2007 until it reaches P300 million in 2010.

PLIA has requested the Insurance Commission to reconsider the increase in capitalization requirement, saying many insurance firms find it too burdensome.

But Escobillo said that an increase in the capitalization requirement is necessary to develop the country's insurance sector and better protect consumers.

Michelle V. Remo

Gov't seeks to continue subsidy of hybrid rice seeds until 2010

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO CONTINUE its subsidy of hybrid rice seeds until 2010, upon the request of local government units, according to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

"This will be the (Department of Agriculture's) new recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo," Yap said through a short messaging service.

"(Another) three years for certified seeds, hybrid seeds and location specific additives will also be pursued until 2010," he added.

Yap had apparently backtracked from his earlier stand to remove the government price support for seed technology this year.

This particular subsidy for hybrid rice seeds had cost the government P3 billion over the past five years. Another P400 million will be spent this year, a DA official said.

The government introduced the scheme to encourage farmers to plant hybrid seeds, which are said to double the rice yield per hectare, the department official said.

According to agriculture rice program director Frisco Malabanan, 250,000 farmers are now planting hybrid rice and some seed companies have observed that the subsidy may no longer be necessary.

"The use of the technology increased production, although there has been a decline in the total areas planted to (rice)," Malabanan said.

Petron aims to secure fuel blends from state firm

By Abigail L. Ho

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—DESPITE its perceived lack of support for the mandated sale of diesel with a 1-percent biodiesel blend, Petron Corp. has initiated talks with PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) to address its future biodiesel requirements.

In an interview here yesterday, PNOC-AFC chair Renato Velasco said the country's leading oil firm was also looking at having PNOC-AFC supply some of its bio-ethanol requirements, even though it already had a supply deal with San Carlos Bio-Energy Inc.

Since talks have just started, Petron and PNOC-AFC have yet to agree on how much biodiesel and bio-ethanol the government firm will eventually provide Petron to enable the oil company to meet the mandated blends for diesel and gasoline, Velasco said.

"It's really just for security of supply," he explained. "We're not trying to secure an exclusive contract. We just started talks in preparation for the (implementation of the Biofuels Act of 2006)."

Under the Biofuels Act, all diesel-fed vehicles must use a minimum 1-percent biodiesel blend three months after the law takes effect. Gasoline, on the other hand, must have at least a 5-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity.

After two years, the mandated biodiesel blend will be raised to 2 percent. For bio-ethanol, the required blend must be at least 10 percent after four years.

Since the law's implementing rules and regulations have yet to come out, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, author of the law, said the transition period could be stretched by another three months after that, or until June or July.

Petron Corp., which is 40-percent owned by the government through the Philippine National Oil Co., had earlier expressed concern over the short transition period.

In an earlier interview, Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh expressed some concern over the technical aspect of the blending, particularly on the logistics and liability side.

But Dean Lao Jr., chief operating officer of biodiesel producer Chemrez Technologies Inc., assured the oil firm that the logistical challenges could be addressed.

Microsoft, Nortel forge deal for unified communications

By Riza T. Olchondra

SEEKING TO SIMPLIFY COMPUTING for office and mobile users, Microsoft Corp. and Nortel have signed a four-year agreement to jointly develop unified communications solutions, such as Nortel devices with Microsoft applications.

According to a Microsoft study, the average employee gets more than 50 messages everyday and has to operate up to seven different devices or applications to access the messages.

In response, the two companies formed Innovative Communications Alliance to enable companies to facilitate business communications by speeding up the transition from voice over Internet protocol, or VOIP, and integrating voice, email, instant messaging, multimedia conferencing and other tools.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and Nortel CEO and president Mike Zafirovski said in a joint statement that they have signed the four-year agreement to develop unified communications.

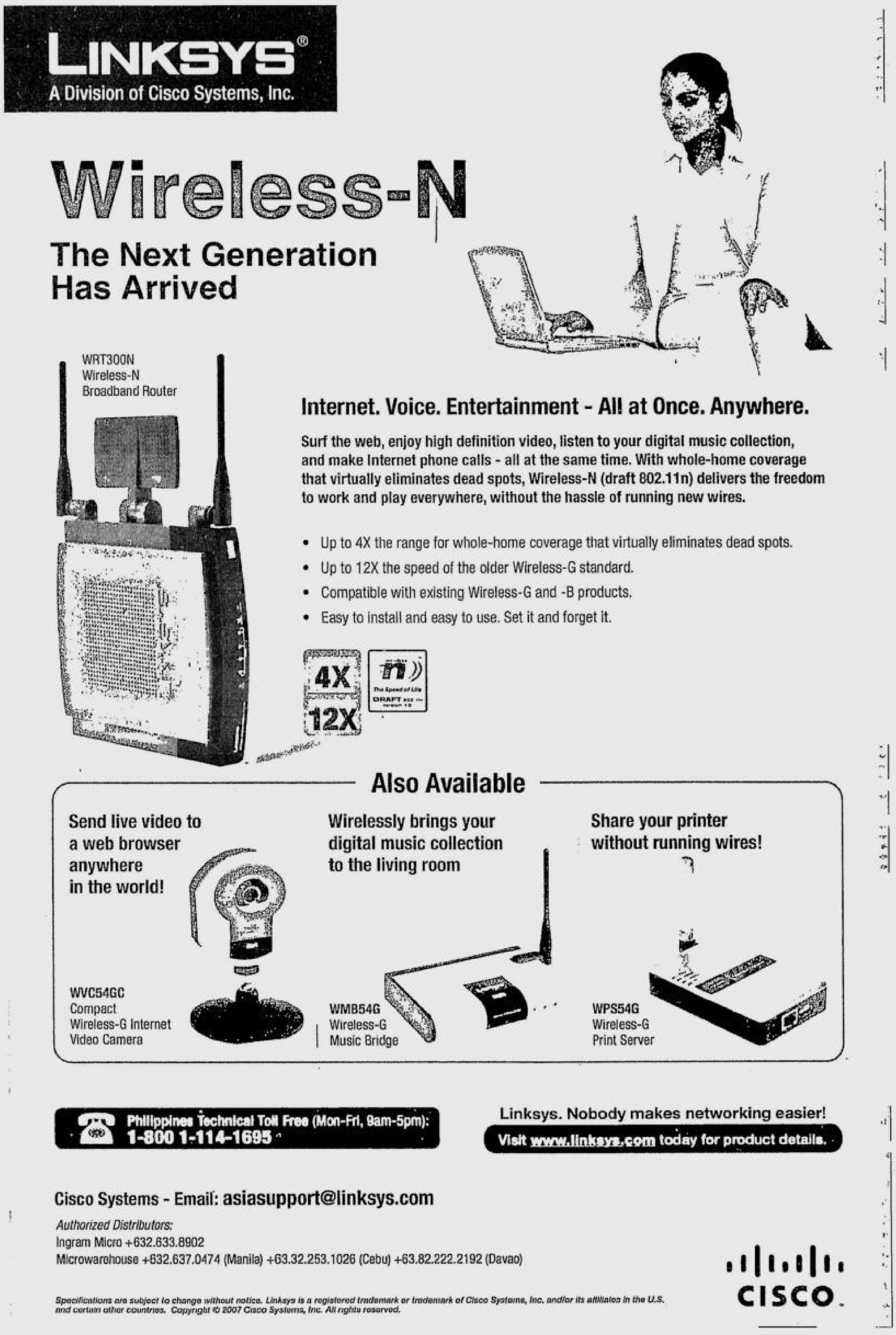
Audrey Lim, Microsoft business manager for ASEAN, said at the Microsoft Boot Camp in Tagaytay that the two companies will launch new devices and services in line with their alliance.

For 2007, Microsoft and Nortel will launch a unified messaging system that runs on Vista, which will be formally launched in the Philippines on Feb. 1.

Lim said unified communications (UC) messaging will be made available between April and June. It automatically sets the user's status depending on whether the person is at his desk, in a meeting, or taking a call. Users can also make calls to anyone available on the UC directory, and can redirect incoming calls to a fixed line or mobile phone with a few mouse clicks.

Later in the year, UC will be made available to mobile phone users. In 2008, Microsoft and Nortel will launch a multimedia contact center solution. Using this tool, contact center agents may engage in a multimedia conference call, complete with video and file sharing.

"And in case of emergency, and your team cannot come in (to report for work), that does not mean your business has to shut down," Lim said, explaining the other features of the system.



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E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Enough hype! It's time to drive the new X5

Text and photosby Tessa R. Salazar

Conclusion

ON PAPER, BMW CLAIMS that its updated V8 gasoline engine has increased output by 11 percent over the former model, while fuel consumption has been kept down by 5 percent. The reduced fuel consumption is also seen in the new X5 3.0si straight-six gasoline engine, which is even claimed to be 14 percent more fuel efficient than its predecessor.

There is also the reduction of engine weight versus the former power unit with its magnesium/aluminum crankcase: 10 kilos or 22 pounds lighter for a total of 161 kg or 355 lb.

Meanwhile, the X5's 3.0-liter straight six diesel engine is the third-generation common rail fuel injection with newly developed exhaust gas turbocharger and variable turbine geometry and electrical adjustment.

The all-aluminum crankcase reduces the weight of the engine by 25 kilos or 55 pounds.

Run-flat technology

The run-flat safety tires premiere in this second-edition X5. This technology would allow the driver to continue driving even when the tires are blown out (or under zero pressure), avoiding tire changes on dangerous spots.

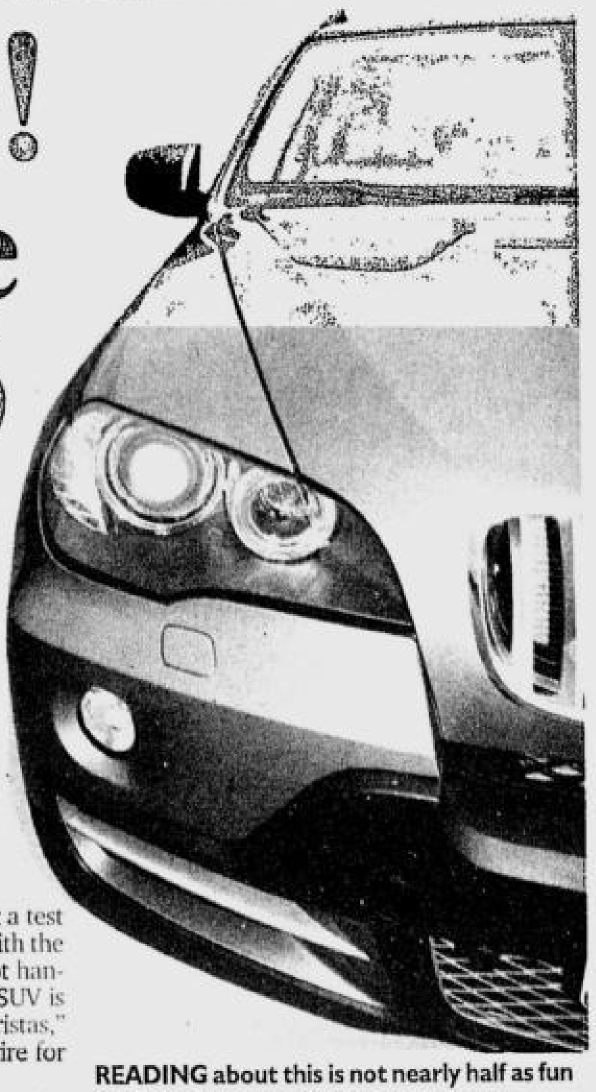
As BMW engineers have stressed, even at high speeds and sudden loss of tire pressure and sudden braking, the driver will still maintain control of the car. Certain tests were done comparing the run-flat with standard tires. Interviews with engineers have indicated that a test driver can handle an extreme situation with the standard tires but a normal driver cannot handle similar critical situations, unless the SUV is fitted with run flat tires. (For the "seguristas," BMW has provided a space for a spare tire for the five-seater X5).

THIS GPS provides a wide angle view of the rear end when backing up.

On paper, the maximum range still remaining after a complete loss of pressure is between 50 (with full load) and 250 (with minor load) kilometers with the vehicle not exceeding a speed of 80 kph.

Engineers also claimed that with a gradual loss of pressure, as is the case in 80 percent of all punctures, the remaining range the driver is still able to cover is 2,000 km with ABS (antilock brake system) and DSC (dynamic stability control) remaining fully functional under these circumstances.

But wouldn't run-flat tires give a false sense of security to drivers? BMW stressed that even as the technology makes its debut in the new X5, the system is already in its fourth generation. Engineers maintain that both the body and suspension were developed from the start with a clear focus on run-flat tires and with the entire vehicle harmonized toward the run-flat technology.



READING about this is not nearly half as fun as testing it yourself.

Still, we were a bit grateful that BMW didn't actually make us test the run-flat technology during our run in Greece. The predetermined routes in Greece were actually chosen to better appreciate the myriad of intelligent features on vehicle of this size. The optimized dynamic stability control, for example, stabilizes the vehicle by letting the brakes intervene while engine power is reduced.

Navigation system

The navigation system (sans voice instructions) came in handy during some confusing highway routes. It would've been perfect for tourists in Manila who would be adventurous enough to drive out in the streets and out of town alone, without tourist guides.

The unitary body shell, independent suspension and electronically controlled variable all-wheel drive were maintained.

A thoughtful addition (at least for this writer) is the park distance control and the backup camera (first time in the X5), which provides a wider view of the rear end (still, it would really be hard to kick the habit of looking at the rear instead of the screen).

Enough of all this talk. All we've done is, perhaps, have you salivate, get your fantasies flying, and turn your skin all green with envy.

The new X5 has been tested as far north as Arjeplog near the Polar Circle, in such a desolate place like the Namib Desert, and in the trickiest rough and paved roads as the Erongo Mountains and recently in Greece.

The most complex and dangerous road of all for the X5 still lies ahead—when it arrives on Philippine shores and attempts to break a path to your checkbooks.

WELL-TRAVELED SAV

The new Strada

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

PICKUP TRUCKS ARE JUST NOT WHAT they used to be. This rough, gruff, go anywhere, do anything utility vehicle segment has undergone substantial change in just a few years. One just needs to look a generation back to see how far the genre has developed.

Turbo diesels were commonplace but these engines never really gave anything more than what was just expected of them. Ride quality was sacrificed for the inevitable load-bearing duties that most pickups would have to undertake. Interiors were spare and simple; the utility theme is really evident in cabins where the words comfort and amenity seemed completely out of place. Styling was never a segment strong point either.

Too slow, too bumpy and too plain; such inconveniences were deemed small by the droves that bought them. The intrinsic sacrifices of daily driving a pickup was just a small price to pay for either the vehicle's complete and utter utility or the ensuing active, macho image. Performance always used to take the small, uncomfortable rear bench in this segment but like I said earlier, things are thankfully changing.

One of the newest releases in the market is the current model Mitsubishi Strada. People have been waiting for this truck to break cover for the longest time, but owing to the cautious and prudent nature of the company that sells it, it has taken a while to see the light of the showroom floors.

It seems though, to the credit of the product planners behind this new pickup, the wait has been beneficial to the new Strada. The vehicle has three important factors that confirm it as one of the true new generation pickups in the Philippine market today.

Improved acceleration

The common rail, direct injection, turbo diesel engine has, just about single handedly, changed the pickup truck segment forever. No longer are consumers just content with the decent pull that comes with old school diesels, they now want the improved acceleration and turbo grunt that is the signature of this high pressure, diesel injection technology.

The Strada does not lead the market in power but it does not disappoint either. A 2.5-liter common rail gives this truck 134 bhp and 314 Nm of pull, with a driver receiving a delightful kick in the trousers when the turbo spools and kicks in. While not fast by any stretch of the imagination, the Strada is definitely quick for its size.

Ride quality and road holding are factors that have also improved in recent times for the genre. Few products combine the aforementioned engine power with really surprising suspension and chassis behavior—and the Strada is one of them. The ride and drive of this pickup are uncharacteristic of what most people will expect, there is very little bob and bounce, weight transfer during spirited driving is confident. Driver feedback is quite good for a truck.

Marked styling

Then there is the marked styling. Quite a few have said that the new Strada has gone overboard with its organic and flowing lines. The rigid, conservative boxed flare design of previous Strada models has completely been binned, maybe causing some Strada faithful to react a little too harshly to the new coachwork. Change can be a hard thing to accept and deal with. All I know is that with a front fascia that seems penned with the Dakar Pajero rally raider in mind, the new Strada's mug is a thing of beauty to me.

In the end, the question must be asked that with all the changes that have made the new Strada streetable and driver-friendly, can it still perform the utility tasks with the resilience and robustness needed of a true working truck. I really don't know. Only time will tell if the Strada's refinement can withstand the pounding that many of these trucks will see in their service lifetime. On the other hand, maybe that isn't the vehicle's point anymore. A street truck isn't really such a bad thing.

STRADA

Forester XT: Hotrod Crossover SUV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

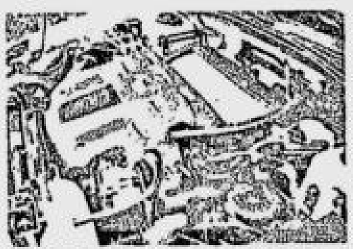
ONE OF THE REWARDS OF participating in the Car of the Year (Coty) weekend testfests is that you gain access to the latest model cars not readily on loan even to the motoring press. Among the vehicles in my possession for several days this month because of Coty, the one I enjoyed driving most was the 2007 Subaru Forester 2.5 XT.

The Forester XT deceives you with its plain, utilitarian looks: tall roofline mated to a stumpy, low-waist body. Its form certainly won't win a design contest. It makes you wonder: is this an SUV or a station wagon? Motor Image, the Philippine distributor of Subaru, likes to call it a "crossover," a compact SUV based on a car platform.

Lurking

But even that is deceiving, given the bland, family-hauler connotation of the word "crossover." Truth to tell, the Forester XT is anything but bland. Lurking underneath its hood is the same 2.5-liter turbocharged, intercooled flat-4 Boxer gasoline engine that powers the Subaru Impreza WRX. The Impreza WRX, if you don't know it yet, has captured six World Rally Championship (WRC) titles and 46 outright rally wins so far.

Which means that the Forester XT is a hotrod WRX in crossover guise, a rocket that hits 100 kph from standstill in 6.18 seconds. Its hood scoop, which directs air over the engine's intercooler and thereby helps increase power, indicates that it is really a street racer in drag.



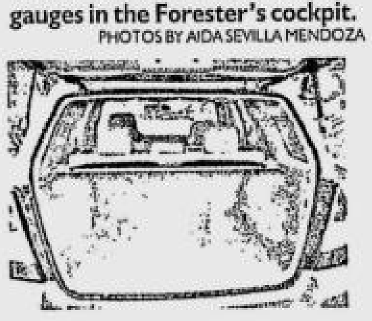
SUBARU'S rally-bred WRX 2.5-liter turbo Boxer engine powers the Forester

Turbo Boxer engine

Subaru's 2.5-liter 16-valve DOHC turbo Boxer engine, which won the 2006 International Engine of the Year Award in the 2.0- to 3.0-liter category, is linked to a 4-speed automatic tranny with SportShift and has horizontally opposed cylinders. The horizontal movement of each piston cancels out vibration from the piston opposite, providing smoother running especially when idling.

The horizontal configuration allows for a more compact size and a lower engine height, which translates into a lower center of gravity for the vehicle. This, in turn, improves stability and overall handling and reduces roll in cornering. Aside from Subaru, only Porsche uses the Boxer engine architecture.

SIMPLE rotary dials and analog gauges in the Forester's cockpit.
PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA



EVEN with the rear seat up, plenty of room in the cargo bay

Symmetrical AWD

The Forester's award-winning engine is complemented by symmetrical full-time AWD (all-wheel-drive) that sends torque (max 320 Nm/3,600 rpm) to where it is needed most, improving grip in the rain as well as on dry roads, while the Limited Slip Differential keeps the 17-inch tires glued to the tarmac by driving all the wheels. A car as fast as this deserves high-performance tires which the unit I tested unfortunately did not have, resulting in screeching tires while negotiating twists and turns at high speed.

The fully independent suspension soaks up potholes and provides nimble, carlike riding comfort, yet is firm enough to handle supercar dynamics. But the Forester is not only about rally-bred performance, it has its practical, family-friendly side, too. In terms of passenger and cargo room, it compares with other five-seater compact SUVs.

Space

The rear seat splits 60/40 and folds forward to accommodate more cargo while space under the rear deck stores small items safely away from prying eyes. The cargo bay has a flexible, removable lid and the tall roofline eases loading of bulky cargo. The fabric seats are water-repellent and thus easy to clean after rough off-road activity or a family outing with kids.

The tall windows give exceptional visibility and generous headroom. Although the Forester is not as high as the Explorer, you can enter it upright and sit tall in the driver's seat. The dashboard is simply designed with rotary dials for climate controls and big analog gauges. A bin with cover atop the dash, a small pocket in the front passenger's footwell, passenger seatback net pockets, two sets of large cupholders in the center console/armrest, 12-volt power outlets fore and aft, bar hangers for towels and four sets of luggage hooks in the cargo area make up the other interior conveniences.

Safety

Aside from symmetrical AWD, a Vehicle Dynamics Control System, four airbags, disc brakes fore and aft with ABS and EBD, High Intensity Discharge (HID) headlights, turn signals in the side mirrors, active headrests for driver and front passenger, child tether anchors and child seat anchors are standard in the Forester XT.

Summing up, the P1.65 million Forester 2.5 XT is not only one of the best-engineered, most capable all-weather, all-road vehicles with extensive standard safety and convenience features, it also offers pure driving fun like no other crossover.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Leftists are among the first to speak of their rights.

SUBARU Forester XT: Not much to look at, but wait till it runs.

The Only Lifetime Brake Warranty in the Philippines!
Have you visited your Rapide Branch Lately?
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Jan. 31 deadline for Gold Quill Awards 2007 entries

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines is extending the deadline for submission of entries to the Gold Quill Awards 2007 from Jan. 15 to Jan. 31.

The Gold Quill Awards honors the best practices in business communication in the country, separating exemplary work from the merely well done. It brings to light superior samples of communication approaches that demonstrate expert application of thought leadership, technical skills and sustainable solutions in their successful programs.

Entrants will experience the awards as a learning, affirming and career-enhancing process, gaining the opportunity to have their work judged by industry peers and become part of a benchmarking process that is designed to recognize technical expertise, strategic thinking, creativity, innovation, and measured results. Gold Quill Award winners gain the ultimate recognition from communication peers and a tremendous sense of personal fulfillment.

The Awards consist of two categories, namely the Communication Management category, under which there are 11 divisions; and the Communication Skills category, comprised of eight divisions.

The Communication Management category focuses on the communication aspects of programs and campaigns. They represent the full range of a communicator's planning and management skills: research, planning, strategy, implementation, measurement and evaluation. Divisions under this category include Government Relations; Community Relations; Customer Relations; Investor/Shareholder Relations; Media Relations; Multi-Audience Communication; Marketing Communication; Issues Management; Employee/Member Communication; Strategic Management Process; Economic, Social and Environmental Development.

The Communication Skills category includes communication pieces that highlight technical skills and expertise, such as editing, writing, design and photography. They recognize the importance of a communication project's goals and measured results and emphasize the creative process of project execution. The divisions are: Audio-Visual; Publications; Publication Design; Special Project Design; Writing (Features and Editorials); Writing (Special Projects); Photography; and Electronic and Interactive Communication.

All entries must be received (not postmarked) by Jan. 31. For more information, call the IABC Philippines Secretariat at 750-5667, 810-1631 ext. 123 or telefax 751-3205, or e-mail info@iabc.com.ph.

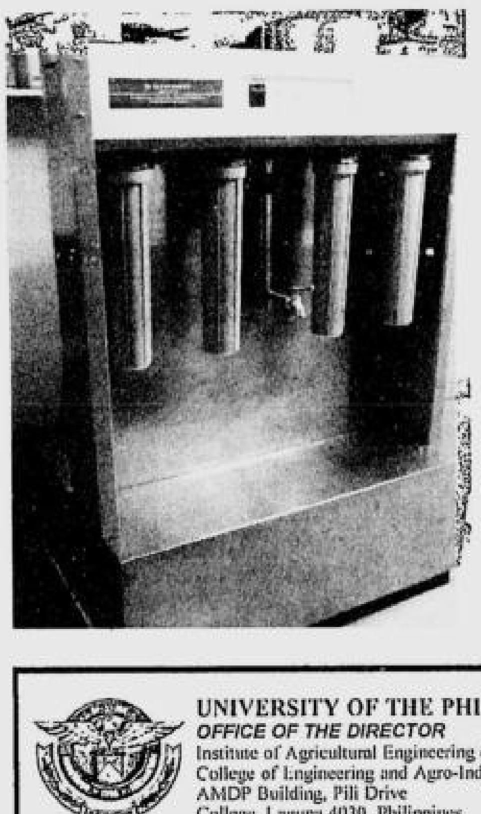
2 outstanding teachers honored

DR. SOLEDAD S. REYES, PROFESSOR of the Ateneo School of Humanities and Jose Ma. Edito K. Tirol, instructor of the School of Social Sciences, join the elite roster of outstanding senior and junior teacher awardees of the Ateneo Schools Parents Council (Aspac). They will be formally honored and awarded at the "16th Gabi ng Parangal at Pasasalamat" on Feb. 2 at the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership (in lieu of the PLDT-CTC Building as previously announced), Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The search for outstanding teachers began in 1991 and has to date 35 awardees. They are the best, the most capable and highly respected teachers of the Ateneo Loyola Schools. This yearly search is spearheaded by the Academics Committee of Aspac with Josephine Perez-Ang and Daisy E. Mendoza as president and committee chair, respectively, for the school year 2006-2007. Each awardee will receive a cash gift, a specially designed glass trophy by internationally acclaimed artist Ramon Orlina, a plaque of recognition and a set of Time-Life Illustrated Encyclopedia.

The Parangal at Pasasalamat will be attended by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres SJ, president of the Ateneo De Manila University, Dr. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, vice president for the Loyola Schools, the deans of the four Loyola Schools, faculty, academic and administration staff, the Aspac board of directors, the students and the families of the awardees.

Low cost, high profit water station



AT A PRODUCTION COST OF merely 30 percent per gallon, the Electromex UHP-500 compact water station easily delivers 3,000 gallons of high-purity, germ-free water daily. The industrial grade ozone generator and ultraviolet germicidal system kills 100 percent of all bacteria, viruses, and eliminates cancer-causing lead, mercury, and manganese.

The Electromex UHP-500 only uses a small storage space of 4 feet x 3 feet x 6 feet and comes complete with stainless tanks, Italian-made pumps, ultraviolet filters, carbon, and the heavy-duty Ozonator. The stand-alone transportable water station is easy to operate.

The UHP-500 uses ozone and UV treatment similar to what is being used by large water bottlers such as San Miguel Corp and Asia Brewery. Ozone kills germs 300 times faster than chlorine and doesn't waste water, unlike the reverse osmosis (RO) method that wastes seven out of 10 gallons.

As a business venture, the use of the UHP-500 lets you get your ROI (return on investment) in three months as you continue to develop your market. Furthermore, there's no drilling, no plumbing, no cementing, no royalties, and no franchise fees required. The whole unit costs as low as P150,000. Call 531-6782, 535-9069, or log on to www.electromexinc.com. 12-percent financing is now available.

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Institute of Agricultural Engineering (IAE)
College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology
AMDP Building, Pili Drive
College, Laguna 4030, Philippines
Tel/Fax (049) 536-8745

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-Infrastructure), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract.

Name of Contract : **CONSTRUCTION OF NCAS BUILDING (COMPLETION OF 4TH FLOOR LEVEL), PHASE IV**
Location : **COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES BUILDING, UPLB**
Brief Description : **Completion of the Construction of 4th Floor Level**
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : **P5,200,000.00**
Contract Duration : **180 Calendar Days**

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract (Small-B Category-Buildings and Industrial Plant), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (as listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-Infrastructure will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-Infrastructure will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-Infrastructure activities is as follows:

BAC-Infrastructure Activities	*Schedule*
1 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility	January 29 to February 02, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	January 29 to February 02, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Not later than 8:30 a.m., February 09, 2007
4 Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	February 12 to 13, 2007
5 Issuance of Bid Documents	February 26 to March 02, 2007
6 Site Inspection	March 09, 2007, 8:30 a.m.
7. Pre-Bid Conference	March 09, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
8. Receipt and Opening of Bids	March 23, 2007

The BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Campus Planning and Development Office (CPDO), UP Los Baños, College, Laguna, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00) to the UPLB Cashier's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC-Infrastructure Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC-Infrastructure at the same address.

The BAC-Infrastructure will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC-Infrastructure to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PESOS FOUR THOUSAND AND 00/100 ONLY (P4,000.00) to the UP Los Baños Cashier.

The UP Los Baños assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Noted: Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ASUNCION K. RAYMUNDO**
DEAN, CAS

(Sgd.) **ARSENIO N. RESURRECCION**
Chair

(PDI–Jan. 31, 2007)

POWER PLANT MALL'S WINNERS OF MERCEDES RAFFLE PROMO

Everyone wanted it-the most luxurious prize of the season, a brand new Mercedes Benz B-Class. The tension simply built up as everyone eagerly watched with bated breath as Power Plant Mall's general manager Malou Pineda, along with Andros Villarza, senior manager, marketing communications of Cats Motors Inc, drew the winning entry for the Holiday season's "Bring Home Mercedes" raffle promo Jan. 14. Ma. Lourdes Nicandro of Mandaluyong City emerged as the grand winner and now the proud owner of a brand new Mercedes Benz B-Class. Other winners include Teresita G. Salvador, Grace M. Jacola, Teodorico T. Salazar, Raisa S. Trenas, and Arnulfo B. Pabroa who each won a 32-inch Samsung LCD TV set worth P99,900 while Joffrey L. Arcinas and Marian Evelina Tung each won an Apple Mac Book Black laptop worth P109,988 each. 2007 is really off to a great start for these lucky winners, and all because of a simple shopping trip to Rockwell's Power Plant Mall.

EUROTILES 3RD QUARTER DRAW WINNERS

Shown are Eurotiles guests and executives Paquito Ngo and Rey Cordova, Eurotiles EVP and VP for marketing respectively (2nd and 3rd from right) with Kim Lukban, AVP for support group, Ceramic Plaza Inc, Charles Martin Go, AVP for operations, Ceramic Plaza Inc, and Frederick Co of Anvel Trading, during the 3rd raffle draw of 'Get Your Tiles, Wheels-a-Prize' promo held recently at Summerlin Café & Restaurant in Makati City. Around 10,000 coupons from participating dealers nationwide vied for the hottest computer packages. Two sets of winners were drawn in the presence of the DTI representative Helen Salvatierra. The first set of winners won an Intel Pentium 4 3Ghz 512 MB PC400 DDR Memory. Winners are Jaime Cayetano of Davao City, dealer, MM Marble & Construction Supply (Davao City) and dealer's salesman Jenny Godinez. Home Outlet and its sales personnel Josephine Kungo of Baguio City made it again in the 3rd draw, each winning an Intel Pentium 4 2.66Ghz 256 MB PC2700 DDR Memory. Home Outlet customer is Kieron Basbas of Baguio City. All non-winning coupons will automatically be qualified for the grand draw on March 9. A Toyota Vios 2006 model will be the grand prize.

'Trained teachers teach better' seminar

"Trained Teachers Teach Better". This is the theme of the seminar-workshop series "Teaching Strategies for Student Achievement" or Tessa to be held on all four Saturdays of February at the Ateneo Institute of Social Order. Organized by Ahead Learning Systems, the Tessa will cover the topics "Direct Classroom Experiences: A Teaching Strategy," "Responsible Classroom Management," "Questioning for Improved Learning and Improvement," "Test Construction," "Curriculum Development, Design of Instructional Materials," and "Subject-Specific Teaching Techniques (for Communication Arts, Math, and Science teachers)". The lectures and workshop activities will be conducted by highly respected academicians and educational trainors Lilia Vengco, Grace Cortez, and Drusilla Zamora of the De La Salle University System; Dr. Fe Josefa Nava of the UP College of Education; Dr. Cornelia Soto of Ateneo de Manila University; and professor Teresita Reliogoso of St. Scholastica's College. The Tessa will also run from April 17 to 20 and from May 9 to 12 at the Richmonde Hotel in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For more information on Ahead's training programs, call 396-1999 or 0917-5011199, or log on to www.aheadph.com, or e-mail tessa@aheadph.com.

GREENERATIONS
SPONSORS NIGHT
La Salle Alumni Association
BATCH 82
The College of Engineering

DLSU HAILS HOMECOMING SPONSORS

It was a rare night for the De La Salle University's homecoming sponsors to be honored in such a splendid intimate affair held at the BMW Showroom in Libis Jan. 12. Hosted by Batch '82, this year's homecoming titled 'Greenerations' gathered generous support from sponsors like Silver Finance, Megaman Lighting & The Philippine Chronicle, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, PNOC, SPES Construction, Unionbank, Getzmo, The Swan, 3M Philippines, Paragon Brokerage, Johnny Air, Animo Magazine, Globe, Sunlife, and Banco de Oro. The opening ceremony was highlighted by the theme 'One La Salle' where graduates from St. Scholastica, San Beda, St. Paul and other secondary schools now carry the blood of a true Lasallian or Lasallites. It was followed by a nostalgic rendition of the DLSU Alma mater song and endorsement of the alumni card by fellow DLSU graduates Mike Enriquez, Gary Valenciano and Paeng Nepomuceno. Buffet cocktails and great entertainment kept everyone glued. Witty host JM Rodriguez, himself an Archer, kept the crowd attentive with his antics. Co-chairs Henry Atayde and Chona Gana expressed gratitude to the sponsors. They said that this year's homecoming would surely be a break from previous years as they invited other DLSU campuses to join in the celebration to create a truly 'One La Salle' community. 'Greenerations', DLSU's Grand Alumni Homecoming, will be held March 3 at the DLSU Football Stadium. To support this momentous event, call Honors Inc-The Reunion Managers, at 437-7090 or 911-4045.

UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of a Real Estate Broker to Assist the UN in its Search for New Premises

The United Nations (UN) System in the Philippines, consisting of subsidiary organs of the United Nations Headquarters in New York, is looking for an office space of at least 6,000 square meter within Metro Manila, and which can accommodate the combined officers and staff of approximately 10 to 12 agencies, funds and programmes of the UN. The office space, which shall be considered a UN House, can either be in a move-in ready state, or one that will be refurbished/renovated in order to comply with the operating security standards of the UN.

For this purpose, the UN would like to engage the expert services of real estate brokers, to assist the UN in an urgent search for the new premises, and the conclusion of a long-term lease agreement in a professional manner. The successful broker shall be expected to conduct the work in close coordination with the UN Operations Management Team, with the proper Government authorities, and in accordance with the legal charter of the UN in the Philippines.

Interested parties may secure the detailed requirements, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 500.00)**, at the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 901 0273 / 901 0270
Fax No. (632) 901 0200 / 889 7177
Email Address : jennette.montebon@undp.org

Bidding Documents (Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference, Standard Conditions of Contract) shall be given to interested parties strictly from **February 1 to February 7, 2007**.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UN. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI - January 31, 2007)

Malate Catholic School homecoming

MALATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL WILL HOLD its grand alumni homecoming on Feb. 3, 3 p.m. at the Jaime Cardinal Sin Gymnasium, Madre Ignacia Street, Malate, Manila. The event's theme is "MCSLink Come Home@90" where alumni establish their ties once again and trace the corridors of the school they once called home. Arnell Ignacio will host the program with surprise numbers from homegrown talents, among them a song number from Faith Cuneta. Jubilarians who are graduates of milestone years 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992 and 1997 will be given special recognition. Malateans can call the alumni office at 521-1451 or text 0917-8910457. E-mail your queries at hyper8148@yahoo.com, or malate-alumni-reunion@yahoogroups.com.

PAMPANGA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
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Tel. Nos. (045)966-0604 / 875-0552
Fax. No. (045) 966-0270
E-mail: pelco1_mexico72@yahoo.com

January 28, 2007

INVITATION TO BID

Interested parties are hereby invited for the supply and delivery of the following materials:

GROUP 1

DESCRIPTION	
Ampact connector #336.4	10PCS
Anchor rod twin eye	25PCS
Angular Brace	10PCS
Bolt Carriage, 3/8" x 4-1/2"	100PCS
Bolt dble arming, 5/8" x 20"	50PCS
Bolt dble upset, 5/8" x 10"	30PCS
Bolt dble upset, 5/8" x 12"	50PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 6"	50PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 8"	50PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 10"	150PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 12"	100PCS
Bolt Machine, 5/8" x 14"	100PCS
Bolt Single Upset 5/8" x 10"	50PCS
Bolt Single Upset 5/8" x 12"	50PCS
Brace flat steel, 28"	100PCS
Brace sidearm, diagonal	50PCS
Clamp d-end strain #4 4/0	50PCS
Clamp guy, 3-bolt	50PCS
Clamp loop deadend	150PCS
Clevis secondary	50PCS
Conductor ACSR #2/0	3500M
Conductor Duplex #2	10000M
Conductor Duplex #6	25000M
Crossarm, steel #8	50PCS
Cut-out com w/ arrester	30PCS
Electrical tape	1000PCS
Fuse links, 3A	50PCS
Fuse links, 5A	50PCS

continuation ...GROUP 1

Fuse links, 20A	50PCS
Fuse links, 25A	50PCS
Fuse links, 30A	50PCS
Pin Pole top, 20"	50PCS
Pole Clamp	30PCS
Pole concrete, 25 footer	50PCS
Pole concrete, 30 footer	50PCS
Pole concrete, 35 footer	50PCS
Pole concrete, 60 footer	10PCS
Poly AAC duraflex #6	20000M
Power fuse SMD 1A 100E	3PCS
Spool insulator, 1-3/4" dia	100PCS
Spool insulator, 3" dia	30PCS
Xformer 15KVA, Brand New	4UNITS
Xformer 25KVA, Brand New	9UNITS
Xformer 37.5KVA, Brand N.	6UNITS
Xformer 50KVA, Brand New	1UNIT
Bracket, Transformer	3PCS
Twistlock meter seal	3000PCS
GE KV2C KWHMETERS	8 UNITS
GE KV2C SOFT SWITCH	15 UNITS
KWH Meter, Electro Mech	2 UNITS
CT OUTDOOR, 100:5, 600V	6 UNITS

GROUP 2
IMPORTATION OF DX XFORMER

25 KVA, BRAND NEW	37 UNITS
37.5 KVA, BRAND NEW	15 UNITS
50 KVA, BRAND NEW	10 UNITS

Bidders must submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: Company Profile, Latest ITR, Audited Financial Statement, business or Mayor's permit, DTI registration, SEC registration.(Original copies to be shown for authentication purpose).

Submission of Prequalification Documents- **February 2 – 9, 2007**
Bid Documents are available on -**February 10 – 19, 2007**
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference - **February 20, 2007 at 2PM**
OPENING OF BIDS -**February 28, 2007 at 2PM**

Bid documents can be availed from 8:00AM to 5:00PM thru the BAC Chairman or its members by paying the corresponding fee at PELCO I main office, Sto. Domingo, Mexico, Pampanga. Accredited suppliers previously pre-qualified still need to update their files with PELCO I.

Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security (Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check or Surety Bond) of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount.

PELCO I reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids including application to pre-qualify without stating any reason. For any inquiry, please contact the members of the BAC at telephone numbers stated above.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ROY M. DE LEON**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **ENGR. LOLIANO E. ALLAS**
General Manager

(PDI - Jan. 28 & 31, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **Ms. LEA D. SORIANO** is not connected anymore with Palisoc-Real Trading Corp. since January 08, 2007.

Any transactions made by Ms. Lea Soriano after Jan. 07, 2007 will NOT be honored by the company.

(PDI–Jan. 31, 2007)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PEZA FORMS

(1st & 2nd Quarters 2007)

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of PhP 4,546,649.92 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of PEZA Forms (1st & 2nd Quarters of 2007). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS:

PARTICULARS	QUANTITY (pads)
Form No. 8101 – Import Permit	9,300
Form No. 8104 – Export Tally	11,300
Form No. 8105 – Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Customs Territory into the Zone	6,200
Form No. 8106 – Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Zone into the Customs Territory	14,000
Form No. 8110 – Application to Withdraw Goods from the Zone for Sample Purposes	1,400
Form No. 8112 – Application for Permit to Sell Ecozone Made Goods Within the Ecozone	1,400
Authority to Withdraw	6,600
Boat Notes	8,300
Form No. 51-C – Official Receipts	8,000
PEZA Personalized Official Receipts (continuous form)	90,000

Deliver of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days from the date receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years experience in the printing industry. In addition, bidders must have filed their annual income (CY 2005 or CY 2006) and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes for the previous 6 months) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **01 to 09 February 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays** from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of their PhilGEPS Registration Certificate and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (PhP 2,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **15 February 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **11:00 a.m. of 27 February 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **27 February 2007 at 2:00 p.m.** at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III, Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza bac secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

(PDI–Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2007)

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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION FOR LEASE

The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) is inviting offers for lease by way of individual Sealed Bids, real property (land) for commercial use with various sizes located at Manila Harbour Center, City of Manila.

Terms of Reference and Bid Proposal Form can be secured free of charge at the Office of the Manager, Investment Department, 4th Floor, Room 407, Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati starting January 24, 2007.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on February 6, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., Rm. 602, 6th Floor, Multi Purpose Hall, Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Avenue, City of Makati. Schedule of submission and opening of bids shall be announced during the said conference.

The Home Development Mutual Fund reserves the right to reject any or all offers or accept such proposals as may be considered advantageous to the HDMF. Further, the Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the proponents for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of his offer.

Fur further inquiries and/or information, please call Jose Rommel S. Bayan at 848-8262 or visit our Corporate website at **http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph** or email us at **jsbayan@pagibigfund.gov.ph**.

(Sgd.) **EMMA LINDA B. FARIA**
SVP, Technical Support

(PDI - Jan. 24 & 31, 2007)

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the supply and delivery for the **"FIRST HALF OF 2007 – Six (6) Months Material Requirements"** stated below, are hereby invited to pre-qualify with Tarlac II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO II). Only pre-qualified applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

PACKAGE 1 : Line Materials to be used for extension, rehabilitation and upgrading. (Includes concrete and steel poles)

PACKAGE 2 : Various Materials to be used for the installation of KWHM and pole Metering accessories and service dropping.

NOTE: Interested bidders may secure listing of these materials at the BAC Secretariat.

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MS. MARILOU N. VERGARA at TARELCO II Main Office Building located in San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines.

Bid Documents may be obtained from BAC Secretariat upon payment of Php2,000.00 in cash.

Submission of Prequalification Documents - February 05-09, 2007
Issuance of Bid Kit - February 12-16, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference - February 16, 2007 at 1:30 PM
Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

Accredited suppliers previously pre-qualified need only to update their files with TARELCO II.

Tarelco II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) MARILOU N. VERGARA
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–Jan. 31 & Feb. 3, 2007)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date: January 25, 2007
Loan No. 1668-PH: Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Contract No: SPISP-LCB-CTN-04,05,06,07,08,09 and 10

(Local Competitive Bidding)

1 The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP) and inteds to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for Prequalification is issued.

2 The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) intends to prequalify firms for the Construction/Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS, Main/Lateral Canals and Appurtenant Structures based on the above mentioned separate contract packages. The scope of contract per package are expected to be as follows:

	Work Item	Estimated Quantity Packages 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a.	Canal Excavation, cu.m.	1,330	750	900	700	-	155	180
b.	Canal Embankment Fill, cu.m.	9,700	11,900	6,700	12,250	-	4,740	8,200
c.	Concrete Works w/ RSB, cu.m.	500	450	700	360	350	840	740
d.	Plain Concrete, cu.m.	660	350	360	740	-	-	290
e.	Rock Excavation, cu.m.	-	-	-	-	390	-	-
f.	Plain/Grouted Riprap, cu.m.		-	-	-	440	-	-
g.	Structure Excavation, cu.m.	-	-	-	-	3,040	-	-
h.	Cofferdamming, cu.m.	-	-	-	-	4,160	-	-
i.	Sluice Steel Gate, asst.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
j.	Intake Steel Gate, assy.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

3. It is expected that notices of prequalification will be made on March, 2007.

4. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from the NIA-Region 13 CARAGA and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the address given below during workdays from 0800 hours to 1700 hours Philippine Standard Time.

5 The prequalification forms in English language, may be purchased by an interested applicant upon submission of Letter of Intent clearly starting "Application for Prequalification for Contract No. SPISP-LCB-CTN-04,05,06,07,08,09 and 10 and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00 per contract package not later than 1700 hours, Philippine Time February 20, 2007. The Letter of Intent shall be addressed as follows:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
c/o ENGR. MEDEL P. MAWILE
Brgy. Bancasi, Butuan City, Philippines
Tel. No. 085-342-3000
Facsimile No. 085-342-5353

6. Submission of Application for Prequalification, consisting of one (1) original and three (3) copies must be received in sealed envelopes either delivered by hand or by registered mail to the above address on or before March 7, 2007, 1700 hours Philippine Standards Time. The envelopes must be clearly marked "Application for Prequalification for Contract No. SPISP-LCB-CTN-04,05,06,07,08,09 and 10.

7. The NIA, reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.

8. The NIA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their Applications.

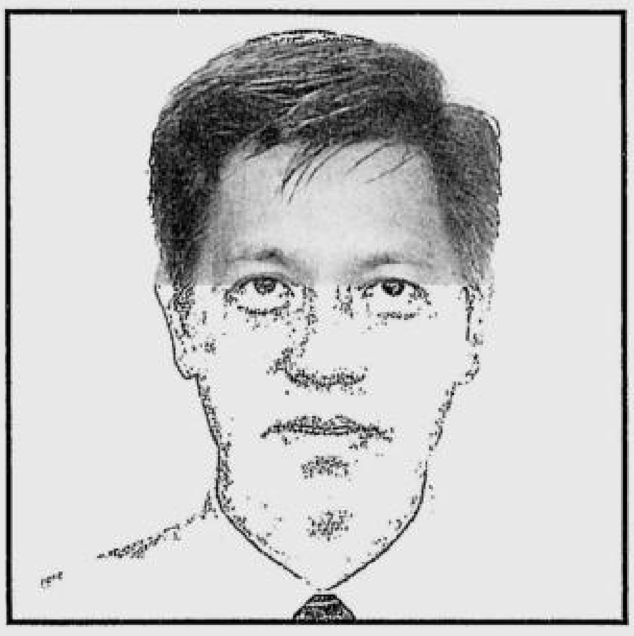
9. The NIA will notify all Applicants in writing of results of evaluation of their applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) MEDEL P. MAWILE
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR., CESO V
Regional Manager

(PDI--Jan. 31 & Feb. 7, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that **Mr. ARMANDO A. MANUEL**, whose picture appears above, has resigned from Autohaus Quezon City, Inc., dealer of BMW cars and motorcycles, located at 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City, on October 30, 2006.

In view thereof, any transaction initiated, entered into or concluded by the above-named person on behalf of the company beginning on the aforecited date shall not be honored and thus, shall be considered null and void.

(PDI--Jan. 31. 2007)

FOR SALE

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896-1381 / 87 LOC. 206

OFFICE SECRETARY
Female Accounting Graduate
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JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC.
G/F Ever Gotesco Grand Central Caloocan City will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of JULY & AUG 2006 on FEB 21, 2007 at 11:00 am
J. Lanuza - Auctioneer
(PDI--Jan. 31, 2007)

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **PEARL ASIA APPAREL CORPORATION** shortening the term of existence up to 31 January 2007 thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been approved by the Board of Directors.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present the same at the 868 Champaca Road Extension UPS IV Subd., Km. 19 South Super Hi-way, Parañaque City for immediate settlement.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) Joselito John G. Blando
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2007)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OF MANILA / NORTHERN LUZON
PDO Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., 22 Muelle de San Francisco, South Harbor, Manila
Telephone No.: (02) 527-8356 to 83 Facsimile No.: 527-4414; 527-4704

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of Manpower Services for CY 2007 For PDO Manila/Northern Luzon including PMO South Harbor, PMO North Harbor, PMO Limay & PMO San Fernando LU/Sual

1. The PPA PDO Manila/Northern Luzon, through the Corporate Funds intends to apply the sum of ***Eighteen Million Four Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Three Pesos and 64/100 (P18,475,383.64)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Contract for the Procurement of Manpower. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **PPA PDO Manila/Northern Luzon** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Procurement of Manpower.** Delivery of the SERVICES covers the period *March 16, 2007 to December 31, 2007,* at the following offices:

RC	No. of Positions
PDO Proper	24
PMO South Harbor	5
PMO North Harbor	84
PMO Limay	8
PMO San Fernando	7
TOTAL	128

3. Prospective Bidders should have experience in providing various technical and administrative support requirements under a comprehensive manpower services contract similar to the Contract to be bid with a single largest contract completed within the last five (5) years, the value of which must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget (ABC) for the Contract to be bid. This is in compliance with GPPB Resolution No. 07-2006, Section 23.11.2.
4. Bidding will be conducted thourgh open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information and procure the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting February 7, 2007 until February 13, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost of Eligibility/Bidding Forms is Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, Supply Unit, PDO Manila Building
South Harbor, Port Area, Manila

6. The *PPA PDO Manila/Northern Luzon* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on ***February 14, 2007, 9:00 AM*** *at PDO Manila/Northern Luzon Conference Room, 3rd Floor, PDO Manila Building, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.*
7. Submission of Bids shall be on ***February 27, 2007 not later than 8:45 a.m. c/o BAC Secretariat, Conference Room, 3rd Floor, PDO Manila/Northern Luzon Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.*** The *Opening of Bids* shall be at *9:00 a.m.*
8. The ***PPA PDO Manila/Northern Luzon*** reserves the right to reject any/or all Bids, waive any informalities in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Authority.

ROBERTO Q. ABADA, JR.
BAC Chairman

BY:
(Sgd.) **ATTY. JEANNA P. ADOLFO**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI--Jan. 31, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Pier Site, Legazpi City

ERRATUM

In the NFA's Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid published in this paper last January 27, 2007, the **DATE for Pre-Bid Conference** should have been **February 9, 2007** not **February 13, 2007** and the **Submission of Bid Document and Opening of Bids** should have been **February 22, 2007** not February 26, 2007.

Our apologies.

(PDI--Jan. 31, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
MANPOWER OUTSOURCING SERVICES INC. 19/F, PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Etsuko Otani	Support Engineer
KINETICS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 2105, 88 Corp. Center, Valero cor. Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Wan-Lin Wu	President
KESTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 17L, Burgundy Corporate Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Bryan Daniel Smith	Manager Philippine Support Center
JGC PHILIPPINES INC. 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Mohamed Salleh Bi Suradi	HSE Manager
JGC PHILIPPINES INC. 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Tatsuyuki Watanabe	Construction Department Manager
SOUTH WEST LEARNING CENTER, INC. Unit 205 ALPAP II Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Ji Chul Park	President
W. ENGLISH CENTER, INC. U-2805, One San Miguel Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City	Gun Young Lim	Operation Manager
MOSPHIL AERO INCORPORATED 7/F BMMC Bldg., 143 Dela Rosa cor. Adelantado Sts., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Ibragim Sharifkulov	Director
PHILIPPINES WORLD SPORTS PROMOTION CO., INC. Unit M. Manila Bay Arcade, Cortabitarte St., Malate, Manila	Kuen Hon Ng	Chief Executive Officer
HITACHI AIR CONDITIONING PRODUCTS (PHILS.) INC. 22 G. Araneta Ave., Brgy. Sto. Domingo, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City	Chuan-Chang Kao	Vice President for Administration
UTELL CORPORATION Unit 11B Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Kyungkun Han (w/o Kim)	General Manager
SPEEDCOM HI-TECH CORPORATION G/F Units BCI-05 & LS1-10 South Station, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jaegoo Jang	General Manager
SPEEDCOM HI-TECH CORPORATION G/F Units BCI-05 & LS1-10 South Station, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kyelm Im	Marketing Manager
L'OREAL PHILIPPINES, INC. 23/F, Robinsons Equitable Tower ADB Ave., cor. Poveda St., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Abraham Johannes Timmer	General Manager for Professional Products Division
GULLIVER INTEGRATED OUTSOURCING INC. 17/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Misako Noda	Japanese Web Design Consultant
BON MARCHE CORPORATION 20 Rufino Ave., Corinthian Garden Quezon City	Jong Hae Kim	Consultant
HCCA PHILIPPINES, INC. 33/F T1 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Bruce Edward Anstey Jr.	Director of Operations

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–January 31, 2007)

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◆ *in English: Every Saturday at 10:00 am. / Starting on* ***Feb. 3***

and **Mandarin Learning Class:**
Every Saturday at 2:30 pm. / Starting on ***Jan. 27***

All Free of Charge

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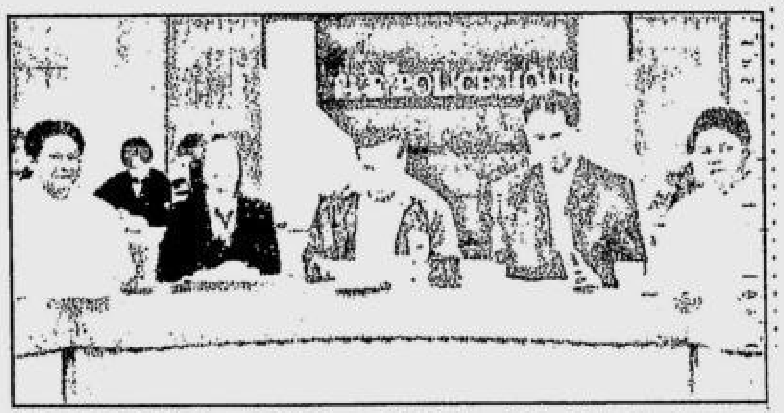

"POLICE HOUR" on RPN Channel 9 featured the Metrobank Search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (COPS) 2007. COPS is an annual project of the Rotary Club of New Manila East and the Metrobank Foundation Inc. in cooperation with the Philippine National Police. From left: Chito Borromeo, president of RCNME 2006-2007; Lulu Pascual, program host; retired P/Gen. Lucas Managuelod, co-host; Nick Torres, deputy executive director, MBFI; and Noel E. Bongat, project chair for the current year.

Philtranco

PHILTRANCO CHARTER & TOURS
Two (2) Philtranco air-conditioned buses were utilized by the Japanese delegates during the recent 12th Asean Summit held in Cebu City on Jan. 10-15. Shown from left are drivers Alvin Ausa and Antonio Gappi, Charter and Tours Coordinator Rose A. Bio, Coach Captains Danilo Dionisio and Mario Berganio.

More Classified Ads on page
UNDP B9
University of the Phils.
-Los Baños B9

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory
On the 22nd Death Anniversary of

HONORIO POBLADOR, JR.

February 1, 2007

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory on February 1, 2007 at the following churches:

SACRED HEART PARISH Welfareville, City of Mandaluyong	6:00 a.m.
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	7:15 a.m.
SAN MIGUEL PRO-CATHEDRAL Gen. Solano, San Miguel, Manila	7:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City	6:00 a.m.
SAN FELIPE NERI PARISH City of Mandaluyong	6:00 p.m.
DON BOSCO MAKATI Pasay Road, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
SAINT ANDREW PARISH Bel-Air, City of Makati	6:30 p.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO Forbes Park, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI CHURCH Magallanes Village, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
ST. SEBASTIAN CATHEDRAL Bacolod City	7:00 a.m.
SACRED HEART SHRINE Bacolod City	6:00 a.m.
SAN ANTONIO PARISH Bacolod City	7:00 a.m.

His family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

ANGEL BAYANIN ORTEGA

March 23, 1925 - January 28, 2007

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 81.

His loving wife Nena; children Ber & Luvy, Greg & Rosie, Pat & Alice, Ato & Vangie, Manny & Baby, Nene & Rey, Necy & Chito and Andy & Nila; grandchildren; brothers & sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. His body lies in state at #3 San Jose Street, Bauan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at the Immaculate Conception Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish Bauan, Batangas.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARIES

Lydia Reyes San Pedro

ng Turo, Bocaue, Bulacan
namayapa noong Enero 26, 2007.

Mahal na maybahay ni **Pepe** (†)
butihing ina nina **Dr. Jimmy** at **Dra. Myrna, Ver** (†),
Greg at **Helen, Willy, Vic** at **Deth,**
lola nina **JI, Karen, Anne, RK, Danica** at **Kat**.

Ang kanyang labi ay nakaburol sa kanilang tahanan sa Turo (Luwasan), Bocaue, Bulacan.

Ang libing ay sa Pebrero 4, 2007 (Linggo) sa Libingang Katoliko ng Bocaue, Bulacan matapos ang isang banal na Misa ng ika-3 ng hapon sa Simbahan ng St. Martin of Tours.

In Loving Memory
on the 20TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

Rufino R. Santos, Jr.

who passed away on January 31, 1987

His wife **Aurora**, children **Ronald & Cherry (Roy †), Rico & Jenny**; and grandson **RV** request relatives and friends prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches:

St. Andrew, the Apostle Parish *Reposo, Bel. Air, Makati City*	12:15 PM & 6:30 PM
The National Shrine of Sacred Heart *Dao, Makati City*	7:00 AM, 12:15 PM & 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 AM & 12:15 PM
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	7:30 AM & 12:15 PM
St. Roque Parish Church *Pateros, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
San Pedro Parish Church *San Pedro, Laguna*	6:00 AM
St. Paul Parish Church *Richmond, B.C., Canada*	8:00 AM
Holy Rosary Cathedral *Vancouver, B.C. Canada*	12:10 PM

BUSINESS

Jan. inflation seen at 3.9-4.6%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INFLATION RATE LIKELY eased further to between 3.9 and 4.6 percent in January despite a strong growth in domestic liquidity that usually tempts consumer to spend more, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

"The actual inflation rate may be slightly lower than the December 2006 level considering the strengthening of the peso and the generally lower retail prices of local petroleum prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The inflation rate, which measures the average rate of increase in basic consumer goods and services, slowed down to a three-year low of 4.3 percent in December from 4.7 percent in November. The actual inflation report for January will be issued on Feb. 5.

A strong peso helps temper inflation, as this lowers the cost of importation particularly of oil. In the last two years, the peso has been gaining against the US dollar due to the strong inflow of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and foreign portfolio and direct investments.

The 2006 inflation rate of 6.2 percent was lower than the previous year's 7.6 percent. The rate, however, exceeded the government target of 4-5 percent.

In a letter to Malacañang, Tetangco said there was a brief pickup in inflation during the first quarter of 2006, reflecting the impact of higher world oil prices, the two-percentage point increase in the value added tax (VAT) rate and the removal of certain VAT exemptions.

"But since then, the inflation rate has declined steadily, due partly to dissipating pressures from the VAT on the consumer price index (CPI)," he added.

"The impact of the two-percentage point hike in the VAT rate largely resulted in one-off price increases and therefore did not result in a sustained rise in inflation," Tetangco said. "The recovery of agricultural production also led to a moderation in inflation for food products, which accounts for a significant share in the CPI basket."

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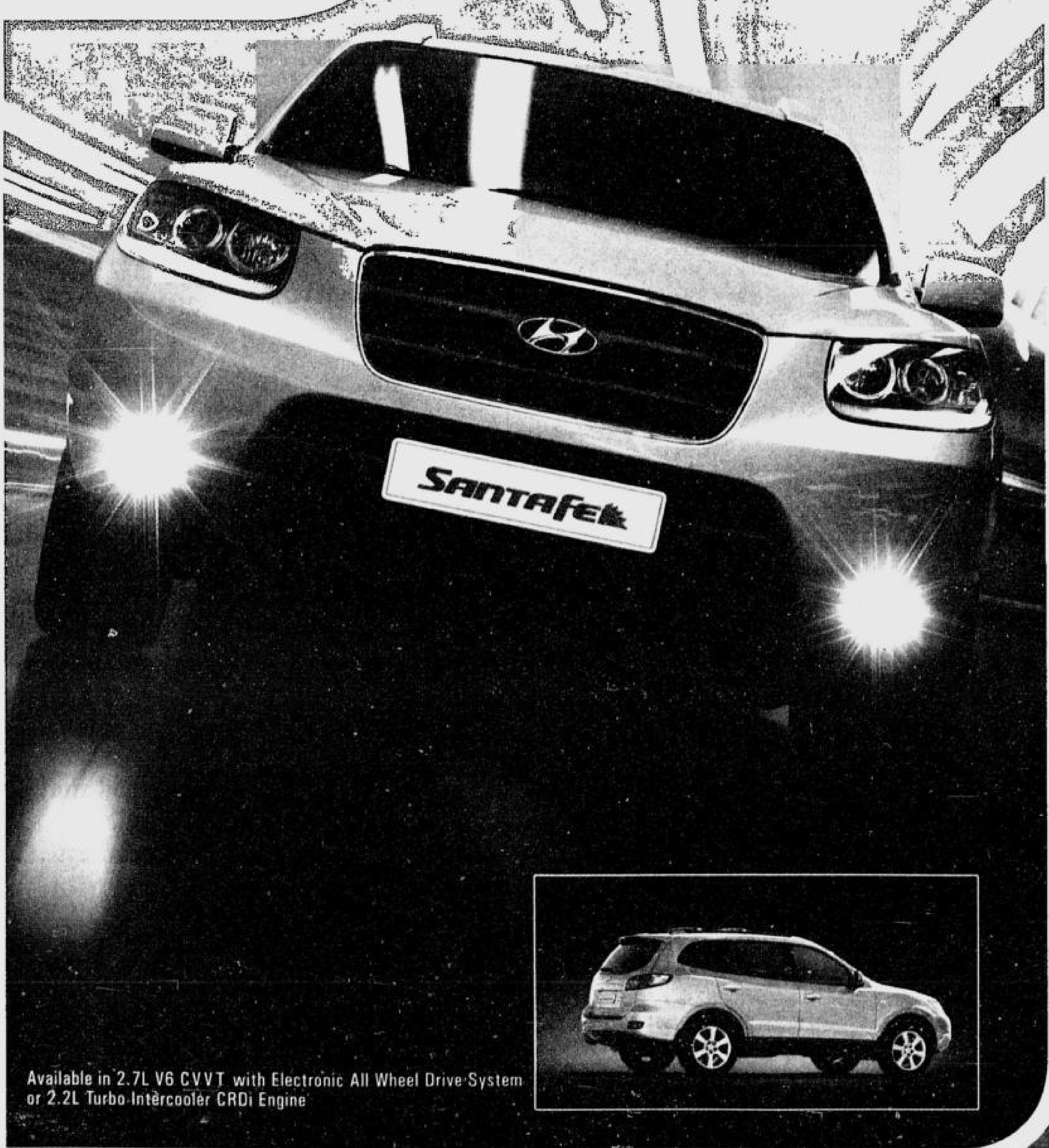

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HARI AWARDS RECOGNITION TO NEW HYUNDAI ELITE DEALERS

Many are called but few are chosen. This saying goes the same with how the Korean car manufacturer singles out the dealers all over the world who rightfully deserve to bear the brand logo and its famous fascia. And Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), Hyundai cars exclusive local distributor, is in the forerun in determining which among its 32 dealers nationwide are worthy to be called the Hyundai Elite.

During the recently held Dealer of the Year Awards (DOYA), Hyundai Motor Co., through Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., granted recognition to the new local dealers who passed Hyundai's highest standards, and were thus awarded the prestigious Hyundai Elite title. The dealers awarded were Hyundai Balintawak, Hyundai Cebu, Hyundai Pampanga, Hyundai Pasig, Hyundai Southern Mindanao (Davao), Hyundai Otis, and Hyundai Naga.

The Hyundai Elite is a high-status recognition conferred by Hyundai Motor Co. to dealers and distributors who have faithfully complied with the high-standards in customer management, facilities, parts and accessories, and after-sales service programmed by the mother company in its Global Satisfaction Index as part of its Dealer Enhancement Program or D. E. P.

The Hyundai Elite certification was first awarded to the Philippine dealership last August when HARI was named as the first Hyundai Elite distributor in the world. Moreover, three local dealers were also awarded as the first Hyundai Elite dealers in the world: Hyundai E. Rodriguez, Hyundai La Union, and Hyundai Makati.

These bring the number of certified Hyundai Elite dealers in the country to a total of 10. With HARI's sincere efforts to uphold Hyundai's quality innovations and service to the Filipinos, this number is expected to rise in no time.

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LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

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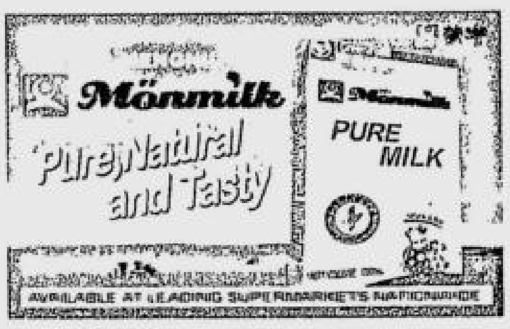
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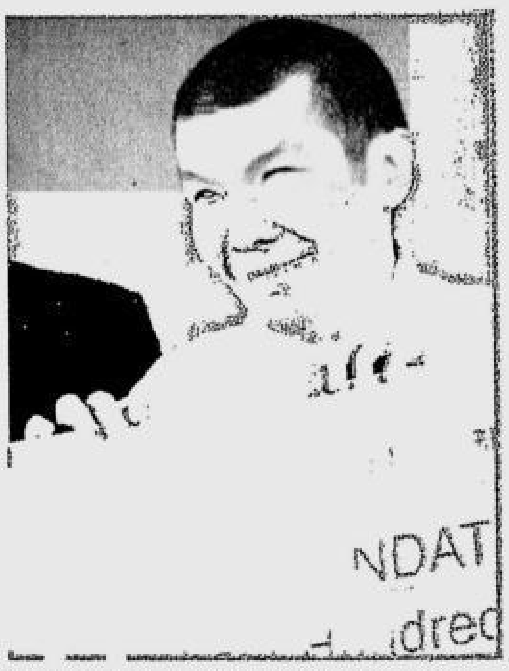
KNOWLEDGE Channel Foundation receives grant money from Samsung Digital Hope.



TONY Llanes, Atriev Foundation president

Power to the people

By Gabriel H. Mercado
Contributor

WHEN CAROL CATACUTAN-Sam, training director and events manager of the Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired (Atriev), was offered to join the Samsung DigitAll Hope Grant Program in lieu of sponsorship for an October 2006 concert they were arranging, she didn't give it much thought. After all, only a few days were left before the deadline, and she was deeply involved in preparations for the concert.

Also, Atriev had tried but did not succeed in joining the Korean electronic giant's annual region-wide search for deserving nongovernment organizations to promote IT skills training to the youth and disabled in 2004.

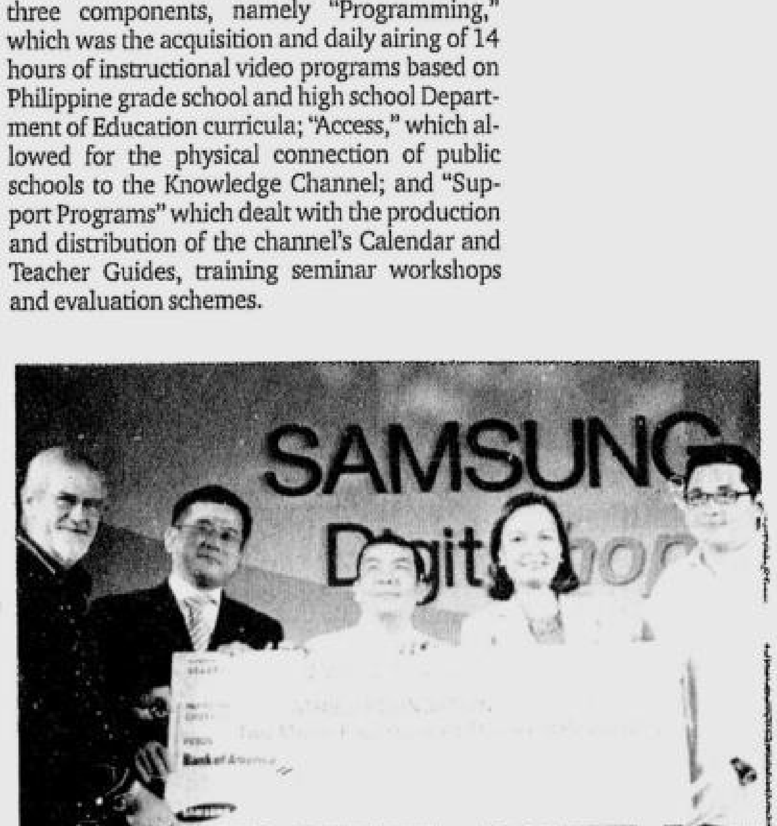
But the people at Samsung continued to ask her, so Sam finally submitted a proposal a day before the deadline, detailing how the NGO she represented would use any funds it would win in a computer literacy program for the blind through a project called Attrac (Adaptive Technology for Training, Resource and Access Center).

In it, she discussed how Atriev carries out five-month training programs in Metro Manila to prepare blind individuals for the use of computers either for post–secondary education or employment. Detailed as well were a few of its remarkable products such as Julius Serrano, the first blind Computer Science graduate, and Doc Mike, Asia's first blind medical transcriptionist. Both were direct recipients of an Atriev education, and both of them would enjoy better options from then on and serve as beacons of hope for others who shared their disability.

"We were better prepared this time," said Sam. "We had a better presentation and our plans were more complete."

At around the same time, Knowledge Channel Foundation founder Rina Lopez-Bautista was also hard at work on a "Cable A School" program, the foundation's answer to the country's need to improve the quality of education and create an impact on the country's floundering educational system.

The foundation's unique program considered three components, namely "Programming," which was the acquisition and daily airing of 14 hours of instructional video programs based on Philippine grade school and high school Department of Education curricula; "Access," which allowed for the physical connection of public schools to the Knowledge Channel; and "Support Programs" which dealt with the production and distribution of the channel's Calendar and Teacher Guides, training seminar workshops and evaluation schemes.



PETER Wallace, Dongha Jang, Tony Llanes, Margie Moran-Floirendo and Bambam Aquino

JR FROM Atriev Foundation

SPENCER Shim, Sepco1 president and CEO

As a result of Bautista's untiring efforts, the Knowledge Channel is now being received in 1,699 schools in 57 provinces, and is a truly remarkable example of technology used in service of a distinct need.

Worthwhile efforts

Bautista and Catacutan's efforts, as well as the efforts of hundreds of their volunteers, eventually proved worthwhile. Recently, they stood on a podium at the Manila Peninsula Makati to receive checks of P2 million and P2.4 million-peso grants, respectively, from Samsung vice president for marketing–consumer electronics Dongha Jang.

According to Jang, The Samsung DigitALL Hope Program is Samsung's way of "giving back" to the community that had been generous to them via the appreciation of their products.

"The Philippines is an important market," he explained. "In 2006 we experienced strong growth, and so [the DigitAll Hope Program] is our way of helping the community which has helped us as well."

Launched in 2003, DigitAll Hope is Samsung's single largest regional social program for Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and Australia. It dedicates funding toward projects that aim to bridge the digital divide. To date, over $US1.65 million in grant money to 38 organizations, benefiting over 600,000 youths and people living with disabilities, have been awarded.

In 2005, the program was the recipient of a Prism award for corporate and social responsibility efforts.

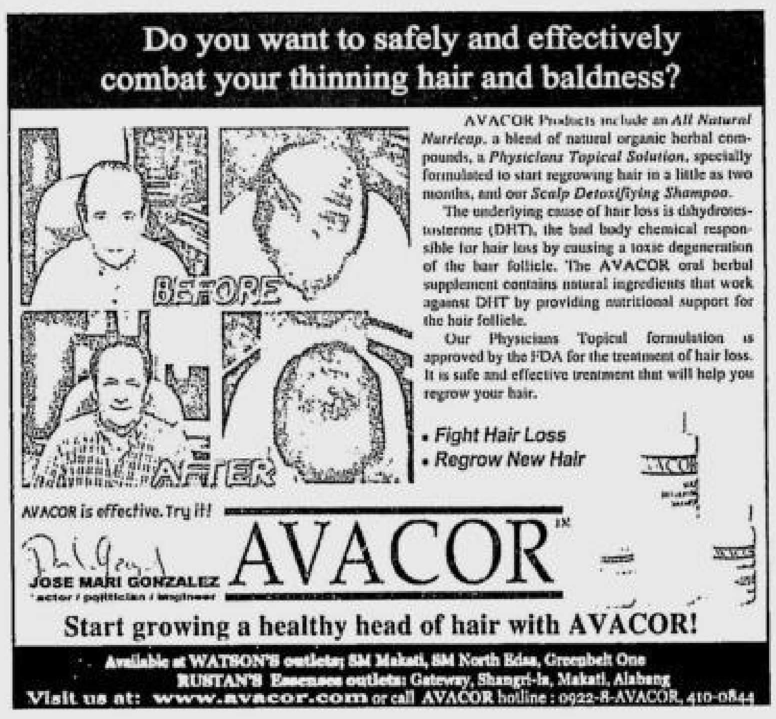
Although many NGOs join the program every year, both Atriev and 2005 awardee ErdaTech, a Pandacan-based technological and vocational secondary high school represented by administrator Ma. Wilhelmina Martinez, agreed that preparation and coming up with a complete and comprehensive presentation was key to their winning the grant.

"It's important to give an idea of how many people are projected to benefit from the grant," said Martinez. "You must be sure of the needs, and show how the money will be used from five to 10 years onwards."

Other considerations would include "Strong value orientation, where you show that a recipient learning a skill isn't just earning a living [for himself] but also for his family and community. You must also display organizational ability, sustainability and commitment. This is where NGOs with a previous track record will have an advantage."

Sam provided a clear example of the enormous benefits that winning the grant brings. "We usually aim for at least 120 direct beneficiaries [of our various projects] per year. This year, we're aiming for 600."

PATRICIA Evangelista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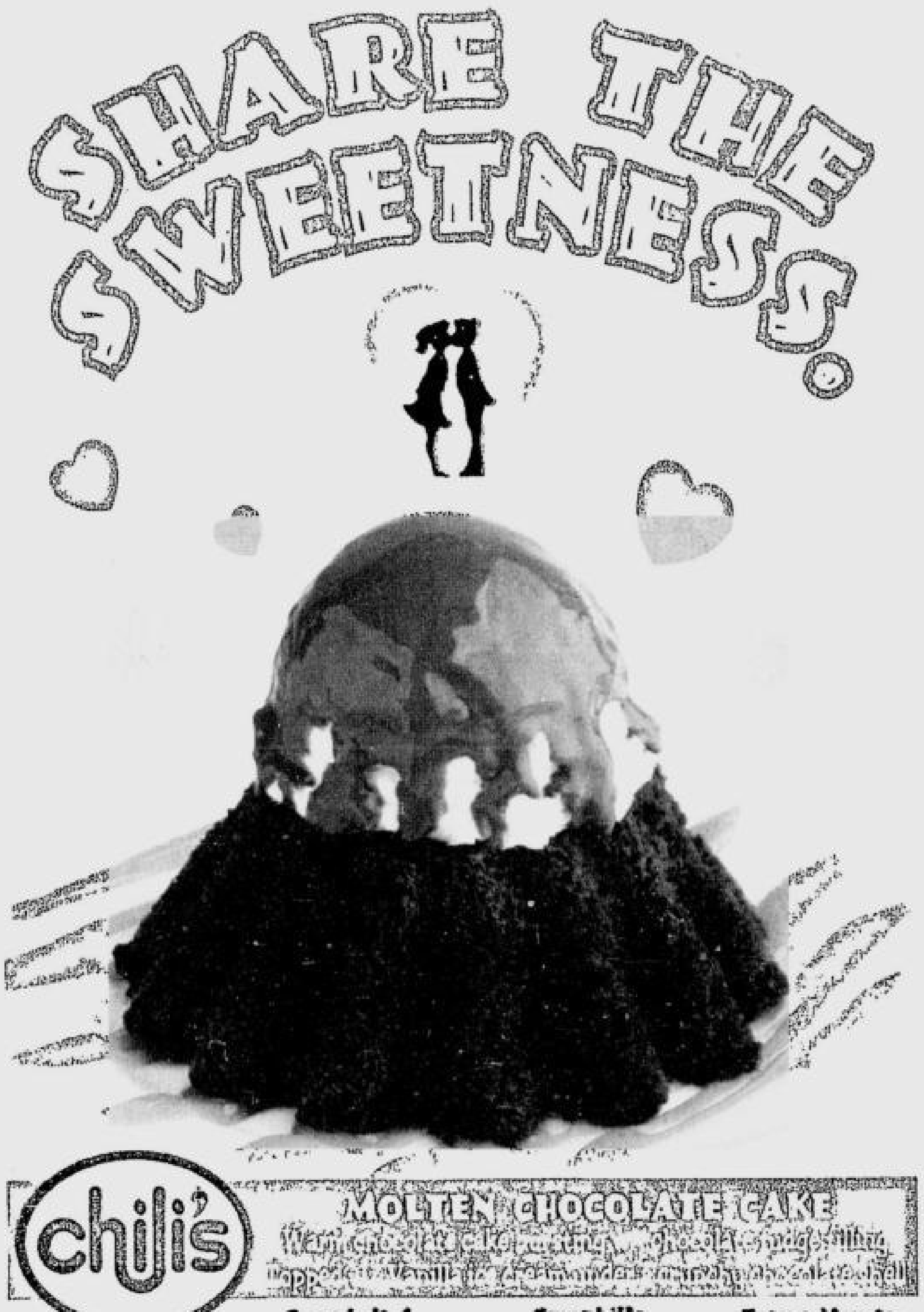
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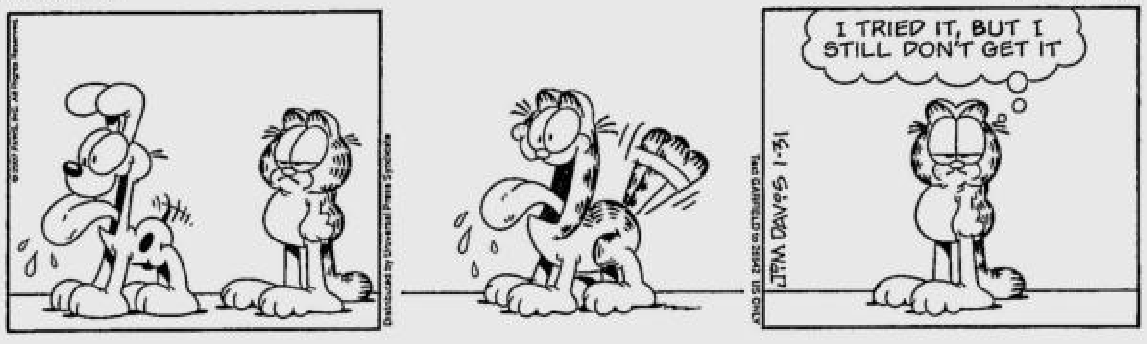
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

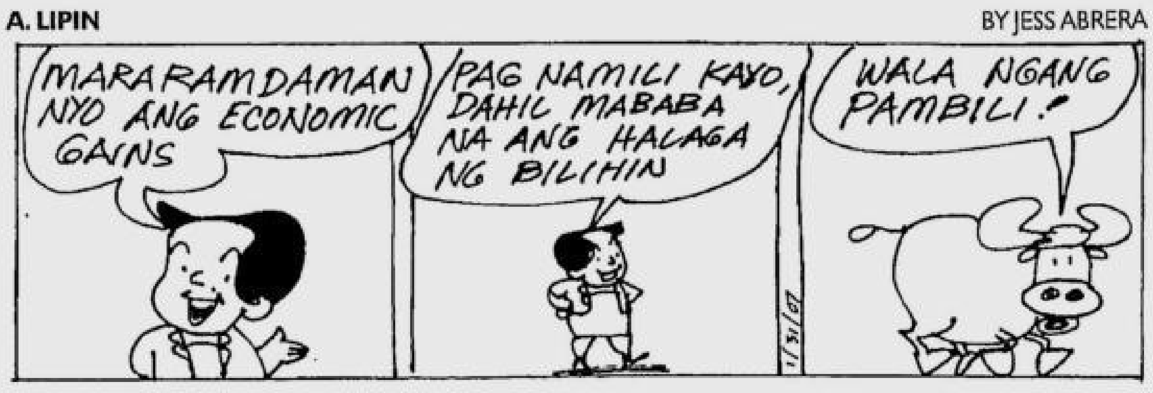
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I TRIED IT, BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT
JPM DAVIS 1-31

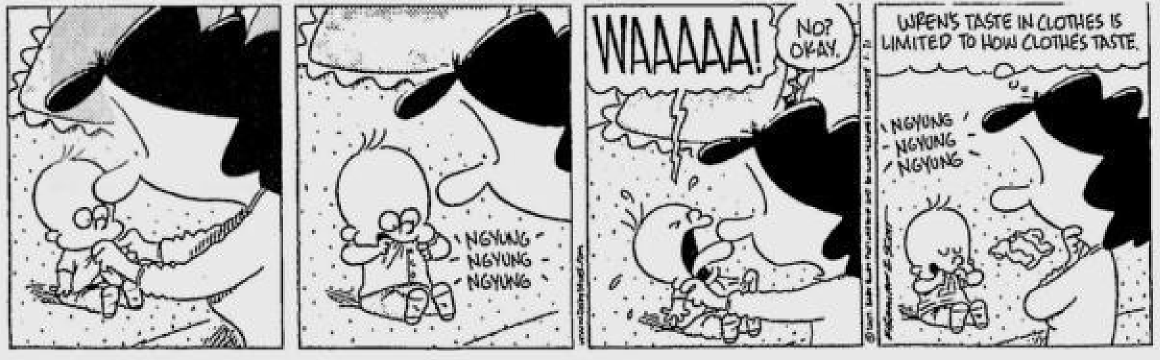
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MARARAMDAMAN NYO ANG ECONOMIC GAINS
PAG NAMILI KAYO, DAHIL MABABA NA ANG HALAGA NG BILIHIN
WALA NGANG PAMBILI!
1/31/07

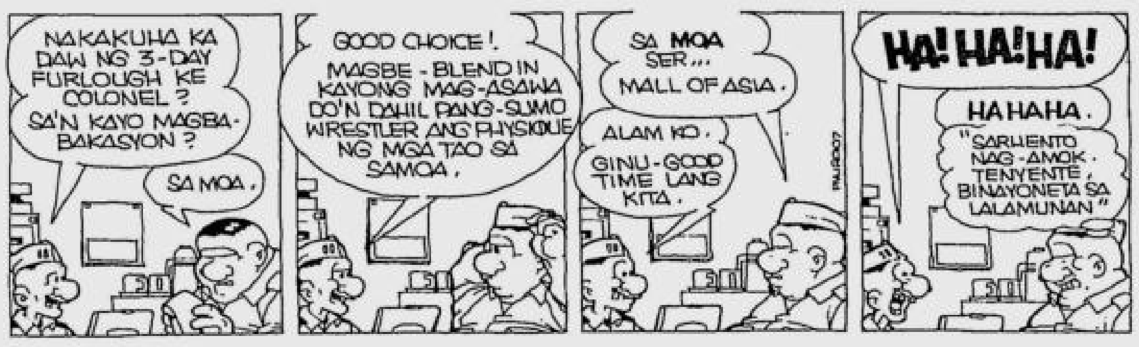
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


NGYUNG NGYUNG NGYUNG
WAAAAAA!
NO? OKAY.
WREN'S TASTE IN CLOTHES IS LIMITED TO HOW CLOTHES TASTE.
NGYUNG NGYUNG NGYUNG

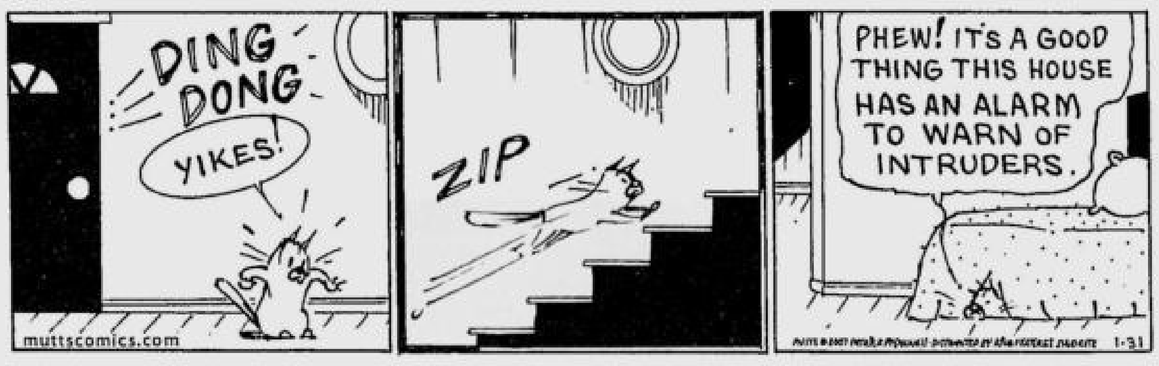
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKAKUHA KA DAW NG 3-DAY FURLOUGH KE COLONEL? SA'N KAYO MAGBA-BAKASYON?
SA MOA.
GOOD CHOICE! MAGBE-BLEND IN KAYONG MAG-ASAWA DO'N DAHIL PANG-SUMO WRESTLER ANG PHYSIQUE NG MGA TAO SA SAMOA.
SA MOA SER... MALL OF ASIA.
ALAM KO. GINU-GOOD TIME LANG KITA.
HA! HA! HA!
HAHAHA. "SARHENTO NAG-AMOK. TENYENTE, BINAYONETA SA LALAMUNAN"

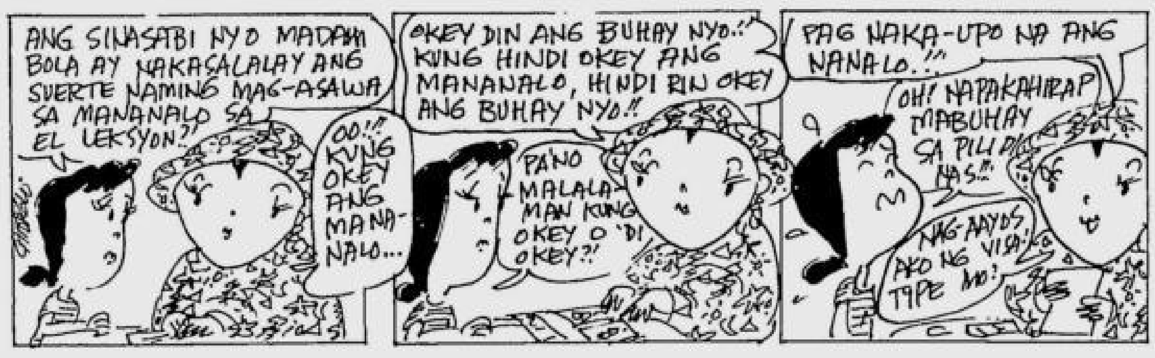
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DING DONG
YIKES!
ZIP
PHEW! IT'S A GOOD THING THIS HOUSE HAS AN ALARM TO WARN OF INTRUDERS.
muttscomics.com
1-31

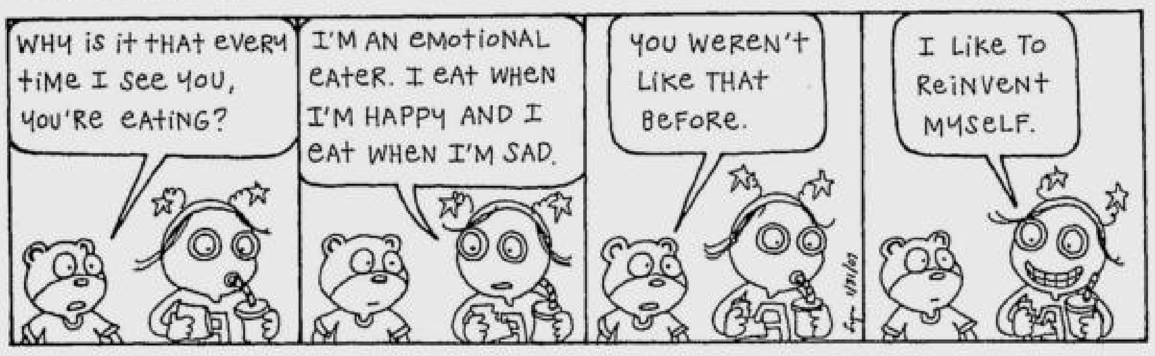
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SINASABI NYO MADAM BOLA AY NAKASALALAY ANG SUERTE NAMING MAG-ASAWA SA MANANALO SA EL LEKSYON?!
OO!! KUNG OKEY ANG MANA-NALO...
OKEY DIN ANG BUHAY NYO..! KUNG HINDI OKEY ANG MANANALO, HINDI RIN OKEY ANG BUHAY NYO!!
PA'NO MALALA-MAN KUNG OKEY O 'DI OKEY?!
PAG NAKA-UPO NA ANG NANALO..!!
OH! NAPAKAHIRAP MABUHAY SA PILIPINAS!!
NAG-AAYOS AKO NG VISA! TYPE MO?

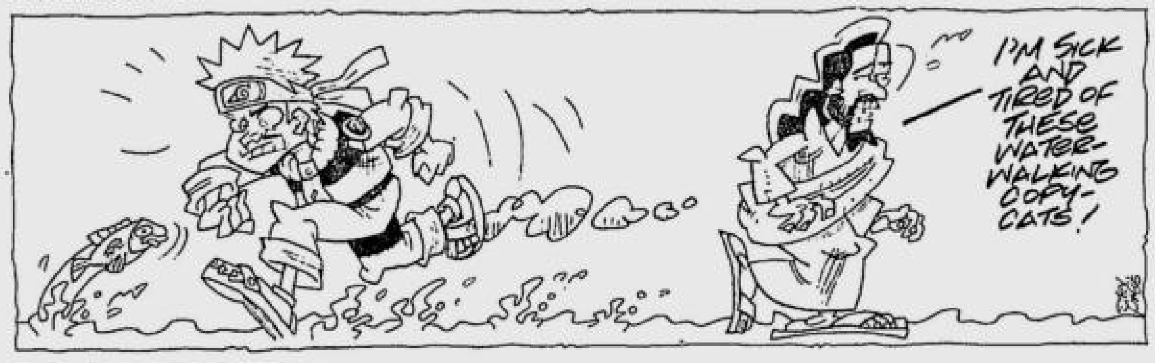
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY IS IT THAT EVERY TIME I SEE YOU, YOU'RE EATING?
I'M AN EMOTIONAL EATER. I EAT WHEN I'M HAPPY AND I EAT WHEN I'M SAD.
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I LIKE TO REINVENT MYSELF.

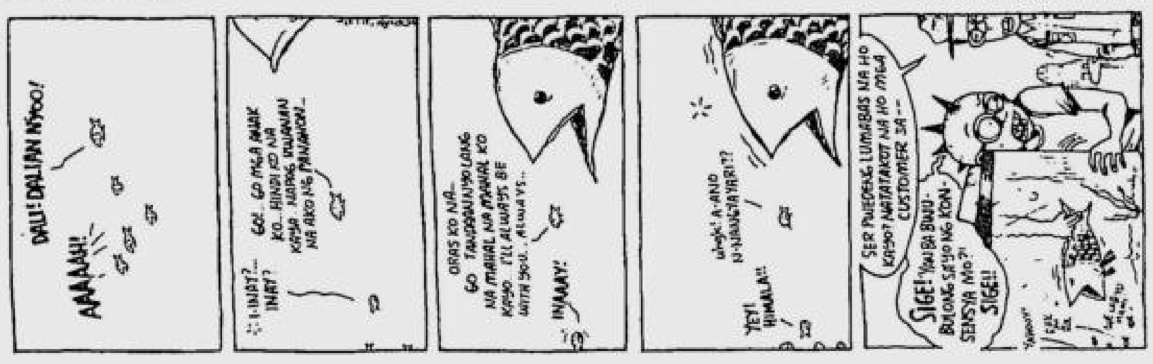
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THESE WATER-WALKING COPY-CATS!

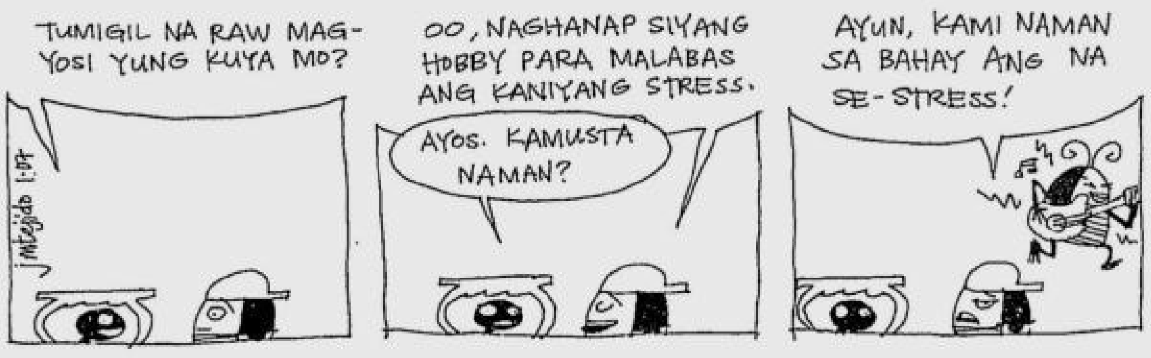
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


DALI! DALIAN NYO!
AAAAAH!
I-INAY?.. INAY?
ORAS KO NA..
I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.. ALWAYS..
INAAAY!
YEY! HIMALA!!
SER PWEDENG LUMABAS NA HO KAYO? NATATAKOT NA HO MGA CUSTOMER SA--
SIGE!! SIGE!!

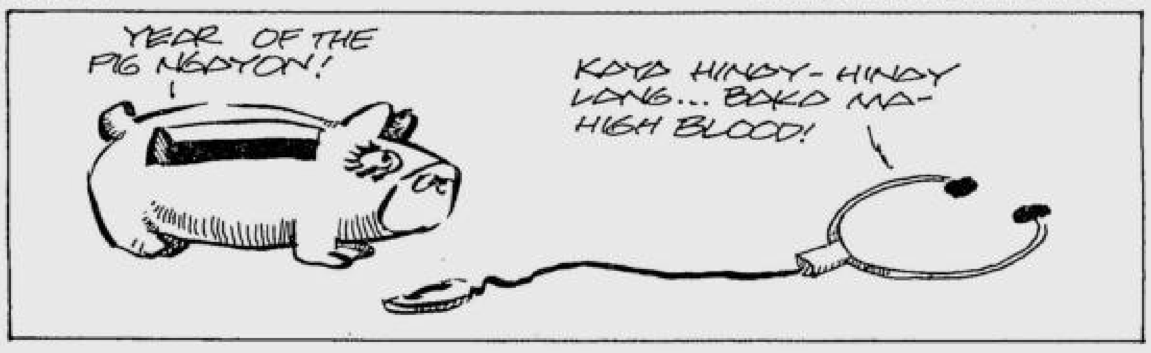
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TUMIGIL NA RAW MAG-YOSI YUNG KUYA MO?
OO, NAGHANAP SIYANG HOBBY PARA MALABAS ANG KANIYANG STRESS.
AYOS. KAMUSTA NAMAN?
AYUN, KAMI NAMAN SA BAHAY ANG NA SE-STRESS!
jmtejido 1-07

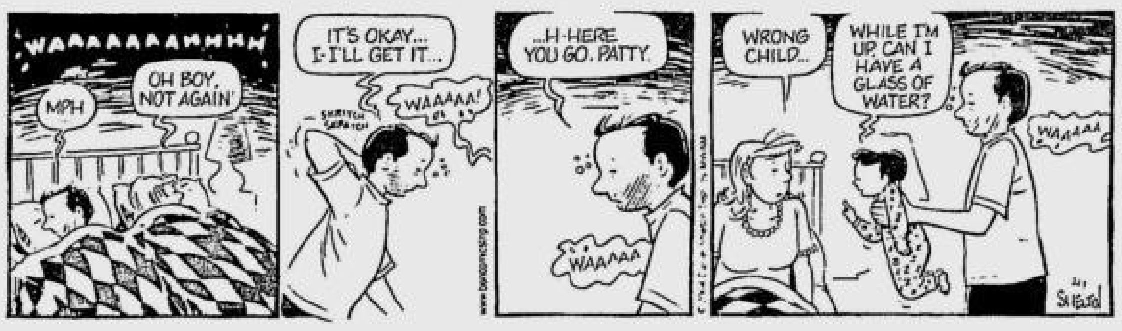
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YEAR OF THE PIG NGAYON!
KAYA HINAY-HINAY LANG... BAKA MA-HIGH BLOOD!

BEN

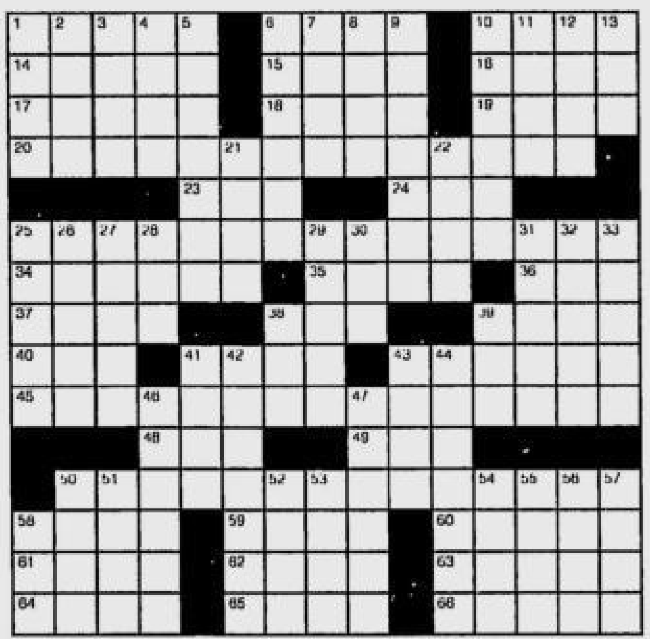
BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAAAAAAAAHHHH
MPH
OH BOY, NOT AGAIN'
IT'S OKAY... I-I'LL GET IT...
WAAAAA!
...H-HERE YOU GO, PATTY.
WAAAAA
WRONG CHILD...
WHILE I'M UP, CAN I HAVE A GLASS OF WATER?
WAAAAA

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Starchy ground meal
6 Entrance
10 First second son
14 "J'accuse" author Zola
15 Option in a threat
16 Pop in Paris
17 Unverified info
18 Shuttle grp.
19 Cambodia's neighbor
20 Winners and losers (XXXIII)
23 Wonderment
24 Male turkey
25 Winners and losers (X)
34 Pops in Peru
35 Basketball great Monroe
36 Leading ISP
37 Latin being
38 Shady tree
39 Predatory shorebird
40 Compass dir.
41 Give a hoot
43 Giving off light
45 Winners and losers (VIII)
48 Bern's river
49 Miscalculate
50 Winners and losers (XXXIX)
58 Bee abode
59 Freudian study
60 Seething
61 Portent
62 Withered
63 Tots in Acapulco
64 Pub projectile
65 Freshwater duck
66 Utopias

DOWN
1 Croat's neighbor
2 Siberian river
3 Prom ride
4 North Carolina school
5 Cotton fabric
6 More tightly packed
7 Norwegian saint
8 Greek peak
9 Dealer in lots of houses
10 Poise
11 Noodle
12 God of love
13 Guitarist Paul
21 Has debts
22 Monk's hood
25 Risk a ticket
26 "Jerusalem Delivered" poet
27 Ford flop
28 Afore
29 Monica of tennis
30 Machine part
31 Like some old buckets
32 Cy of baseball
33 Louver parts
38 Sea eagle
39 H.S. class
41 Scorch
42 Most open to the breeze
43 Old Cassino cash
44 Kiev's country
46 Inventor's document
47 Ship
50 High-grade cotton
51 State with conviction
52 Fancy molding
53 One-third of a WWII movie?
54 Crossword pattern
55 Rustic road
56 Jacket or collar
57 Legis. meeting
58 Trough for mortar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58 59 60
61 62 63
64 65 66

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

1/31/07

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	S	E	R		V	E	S	T	A		T	O	Y
C	A	R	L	O		I	N	E	R	T		A	C	E
D	R	I	E	D	A	N	D	C	U	T		K	E	N
			M	E	R	E	S	T		A	T	E	A	T
S	I	L	E	N	T	S			I	G	U	A	N	A
P	R	I	N	T	S		D	E	S	I	G	N		
R	A	F	T			M	I	X	E	R		D	B	L
I	T	E		S	P	A	N	I	E	L		G	E	E
G	E	O		M	A	N	E	T			P	I	S	A
		F	L	A	W	E	D		C	R	A	V	E	D
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A	R	C		S	T	A	T	E	O	F	H	E	A	D
M	A	T		E	U	R	O	S		L	E	A	S	E
A	L	S		T	E	E	N	S		E	R	U	P	T

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1/31/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: People admire you because you're entertaining. This is good because you need the company (and admiration) of others. You like to socialize! It's important for you to find others of like mind to hang out with because you need to be appreciated for your contributions. The year ahead could bring you a major change, perhaps as significant as in 1998.

Birthdate of: Anthony LaPaglia, actor; Nolan Ryan, baseball hall-of-famer; Minnie Driver, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Conversations with friends are particularly penetrating today. Somebody (could be you) wants to get to the bottom of something—and will!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Exchanges with bosses and parents are very much to the point today. You want to know why people are doing things. You want to know the purpose for everything. (Pretty tall order.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your desire to explore new ideas and philosophies is very strong today. This is an excellent day for any kind of study or research. You'll make great headway.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can definitely ferret out answers to unsolved problems today. You have the mind of a sleuth! You will quickly see the subtext to everything. Ah-ha!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Discussions with partners will be intense and very revealing today. At least you're searching for answers. You want the bottom-line truth about something (nothing sugar-coated).

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can get a lot done at work today. You're energetic and extremely focused. In fact, you're relentless about accomplishing whatever you intend to do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're intrigued by mystery and games today! You want something exciting to happen. Work with puzzles or read a whodunit. You might enjoy watching a spy thriller movie.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Family discussions are definitely intense and direct today. You're not going to stop until you find out what you need to know. You're looking for the truth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have X-ray vision today. Your mind is also totally absorbed by one idea. If you try to convince others of something, you will succeed!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You have definite ideas about financial matters today, whether you're earning money or spending it. You also want to know the source of things. What's behind all this?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today you're prepared to investigate or ask any questions in order to reach your goal. Others will see that you're prepared to work hard for what you want. Perhaps you want to change people's thinking about something?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might learn something about yourself today that actually changes your life. It's a truth you can no longer ignore. ("Luke, I am your father.") That's a joke, but you get the drift.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

					9	8		
				1			2	
				7			5	3
	8	5			2	1		
2			1	6	4		3	
1							6	
	1						8	
		9	3	2	1	7		
			7		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/31

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	6	5	4	8	7	1	2	9
7	1	8	5	2	9	3	4	6
2	4	9	3	6	1	8	5	7
1	8	6	7	4	5	9	3	2
5	2	7	9	3	8	6	1	4
4	9	3	2	1	6	5	7	8
6	5	2	1	9	4	7	8	3
8	7	4	6	5	3	2	9	1
9	3	1	8	7	2	4	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★

MARDY and Marsio Juwono

Bye, brothers!

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

FAMILY PLAYED A big part in "The Amazing Race Asia" stint of Indonesian brothers Mardy and Marsio Juwono. Apart from being the only team with members who are related by blood, their own families also served as motivation for the brothers to do their best to win the competition.

In the last 12 legs of the famous reality-based TV program, the Juwono brothers had become family to a lot of viewers, thanks to their entertaining comments, complaints and arguments.

Last week, our brothers bade goodbye as they got eliminated after reaching the pit stop last.

Their strategy of taking one task one leg at a time didn't work as expected. However, they did get something instead of the top prize: fans.

"Quite a bit nowadays," said Mardy. "So many of them," agreed Marsio. "We're surprised."

2bU! recently had a phone conversation with the brothers and we discovered how truly entertaining they are (and talkative!), as they talked about fitness, memorable moments and how much they love Filipinos.

How much weight did you lose during the race?

Mardy: 3-4 pounds.

Marsio: About 10 pounds.

Are you guys now more into fitness?

Mardy: Not for me.

Marsio: I'm into tennis. I eat healthy. I want to buff my body up for "The Amazing Race All Stars!"

I know that Marsio takes photos as his day job. Did you take pictures during the race?

Marsio: We weren't allowed to bring cameras. But the cameras loved shooting me when I was eating.

What's the most memorable experience you had during the race?

Marsio: I was worried when Mardy had to jump off a plane during nighttime. I was worried he wouldn't make it because it was dark. I admire his determination.

Mardy: That I got to join "The Amazing Race Asia" with my brother. Money can't buy that.

What's the most horrible leg you did?

Mardy: Auckland. My backpack was heavy, we walked a lot, I had cramps and it was tiring. Ernie gave me power drinks and lotion for my cramps. He helped to heal my leg.

Marsio: Monkey forest in Bali.

What country did you like visiting the most?

Mardy: New Zealand

Marsio: Sydney, Australia

How was Allan Wu as a host?

Mardy: I couldn't think of any other guy to host the show.

Who do you think is going to win among the three remaining teams?

Mardy and Marsio: That's a tricky question!

Let me rephrase. Who are you rooting for?

Mardy and Marsio: Ernie and Jeena! We love them to death!

But they've been eliminated already! Okay, who are the contestants that you miss the most?

Mardy and Marsio: Ernie and Jeena, Aubrey and Jacq! They're really fun!

Who's the prettiest contestant?

Mardy: Aubrey!

Marsio: Jacq!

Catch the exciting season finale of "The Amazing Race Asia" tomorrow, 9 p.m., on AXN. Watch out for our interviews with the top three teams next week.

Accepting . . .

From page C4

look thinner in the outfits I had to wear. The girls around me constantly complained of nonexistent rolls of fat around their waists and talked about all sorts of diets. Some designers also told off the models whom they thought were a little heavier than usual—meaning, they were in the normal weight range. After a while, I got tired of starving myself (and wasting time waiting during go-sees), so I quit modeling and started writing and styling instead, which I loved much more.

Styling photo shoots made me realize that even supposedly perfect models had a lot of insecurities, too. Many of them have cellulite, stretch marks, and even bad skin, which are easily banished by Photoshop. Sometimes, the more beautiful the models were, the more insecurities they had. They worried when they weren't drop-dead gorgeous in a photo and fretted over the smallest beauty disasters, like pimples and frizzy hair.

Seeing all this, and realizing that all the things I felt bad about at one point or another (height, teeth, skin, hair, weight) didn't really matter, made me change my perspective about how I looked. I became less conscious about my weight and didn't obsess about how Model X looked so much better than I did in a swimsuit.

During the photo shoots that I do for glossies and 2bU!, I try to choose models who aren't drop-dead gorgeous to begin with, but regular people who are confident enough to face the camera and feel gorgeous when they do. "Real girls," in the industry lingo. That way, the models themselves (as well as the readers) would hopefully realize that they don't have to be thin and strikingly pretty to feel beautiful.

Everyone has insecurities. I had more than my fair share of them growing up, and I still get anxiety attacks when my favorite pair of jeans doesn't slip on easily. During a recent personal crisis, I barely ate for a week because I felt that being thin would compensate for how lousy I felt. Stuff like that still slips through now and then. Still, I'm working on feeling better about myself; it takes time to do these things, after all. But in the end, it is being able to work with flaws that makes a person secure, and accepting them that makes him or her beautiful.

The Self-Esteem Chronicles of 2bU! is published in partnership with Dove. Dove broadens the standards of beauty and improve self-esteem in order to inspire more women to care for themselves. Make a contribution to the Dove Self-Esteem Fund by purchasing Dove products. Proceeds from the fund are used to run BodyTalk, a self-esteem workshop to help young girls develop positive self-image.

Email the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

Be a part of 2bU! and Dove's Self-Esteem Chronicles

DOVE RECENTLY LAUNCHED THE SELF-Esteem Fund, which will be used to run BodyTalk Workshops for young girls. This time, we want to read your self-esteem story.

Share your story. Use the following questions as a guide.

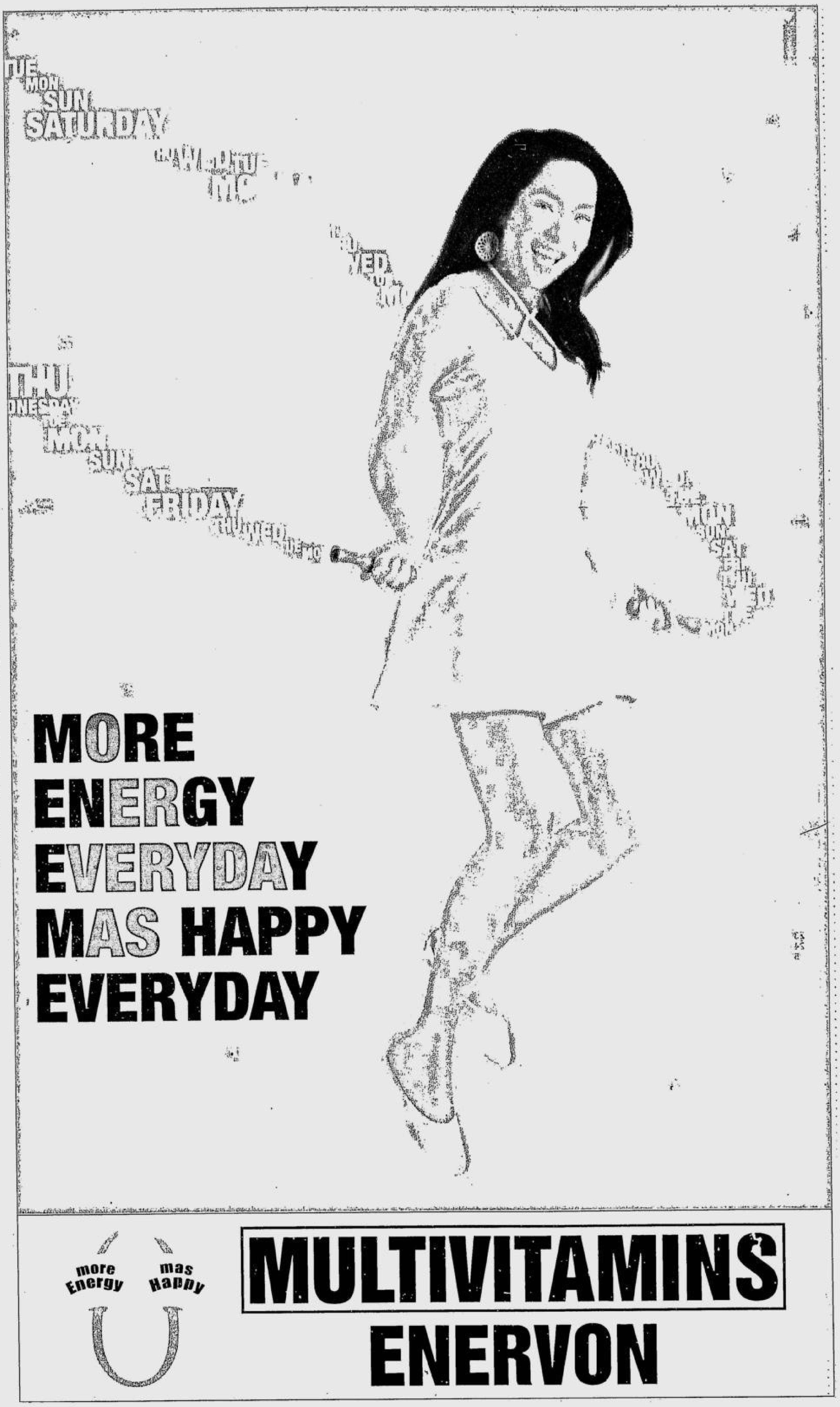
Tell us about your childhood beauty insecurity. How did it develop? Did it make an impact on your self-confidence, your ability to reach your goals and maximize your potential? How did caring for yourself help you overcome your hang-ups? Do you have tips for building a positive self-image?

2bU! and Dove will be running the Self-Esteem Chronicles for the next eight weeks, until March 14. One story will be chosen each week. Deadline of entries is every Saturday. Essays must be a maximum of 4,000 characters.

If your story is selected, it will be published in 2bU! and you will receive Dove gift packs and a limited-edition Dove Statement Tee designed by Kate Torralba.

Don't forget to choose which shirt statement you want ["A dark child can brighten your day"; "A chubby kid can live large"; "A short child can stand tall"; "100% real beauty"; and which size you will need: "I'm petite and a big dreamer" (bust: 26-28 inches); "I'm somewhere in between, but just as sweet" (29-32 inches); "I'm big and beautiful" (33-36 inches)].

E-mail your entries to selfesteemchronicles@gmail.com along with your name, age, contact info, school/office.



Accepting myself, warts and all

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

HAPPIER and more confident about my body image

AUTHOR at 11 years old, attacking a bucket of ice cream

THERE'S A CERTAIN TYPE OF pretty little kid that attracts comments from total strangers. This little girl makes them say things like, "Your daughter is going to be a heartbreaker someday" to the doting mother, or at least reduces adults to cooing at the kid.

They are the sweet little things who look great in ballet tutus and pigtails. These girls are the ones who are called front and center to sing at Christmas parties. They always seem to be camera-ready, with perfect curls and dimples and ribbons on their hair. These are the girls who, when they reach their teens, proudly show off their baby photos to their boyfriends.

Unfortunately, I wasn't one of them. In fact, I even brought my little sister's baby photos to school and pretended they were mine because she was a lot cuter. It didn't work, though: no one believed I was the adorable, fair-skinned kid in the photo.

Growing up, I was always the sort of chubby but not cute kid eating something or another. Up to now, my family still laughs at the time I polished off six coconuts meant for the *buko* salad while my grandmother answered the phone. When she got back, all she saw were six scraped coconut shells and a very sticky kid with a spoon.

It was also roughly at this period that I managed to stick a peanut up my nose, which became apparent to the members of the household only when a suspicious, evil-smelling fluid started running down from my nostril.

So yes, that was the reality of my childhood: I was the clumsy, perpetually hungry kid who was slightly fat and not much else. Most of my childhood photos involved me with some food (take your pick: chicken, spaghetti, cake, ice cream), oblivious to the rest of the people at the party. I had a big, booming voice instead of a melodic one, and an unfortunate tendency to bellow, "I am big girl, not woman!" at the most inopportune times.

Third tallest

I dropped the weight even before preschool, so being chubby never became an issue with me, but I shot up like a bamboo sprout. In grade school, I was the third tallest in my batch, which is, if you ask any grade school girl, not always a good thing. The bullies I encountered were all cute and short: because I so wanted to belong to their crowd, I did everything I could to belong. So I read Archie comics and the Sweet Valley series, bought my lunch at school (because it was uncool to bring packed food except for field trips), talked for hours on the phone, and tried to get my parents to buy the clothes they wore.

So I (the tall, gangly kid with big teeth) had to do everything to please this crowd of bullies. Because they were small and cute, it was nearly impossible to make them look like the bad guys. It was harder to get away with the same things as they did, though, because they still looked like kids and I was starting to look like an overgrown Lolita.

I felt that my childhood was cut short because I was taller than usual. While my siblings bounced their hearts out inside inflated houses, I had to wait outside because I was already above the height limit.

Things took a turn for the better when I discovered basketball in the sixth grade. For once, being tall was something to be proud of. All the girls wanted me on their team, and when I tried out for the varsity team a year later, the coach immediately took me in. I wasn't the best player on the team, but instead of being unhappy, I tried to make the best of it.

However, there were still times that I wished I were one or two inches shorter. In the seventh grade, I had giant crush on a guy who was shorter than me, even if he was two years older. I didn't take my vitamins and I prayed I would stay the same height (or that he would get taller). It was silly, but I regretted not taking my vitamins later on for another reason.

Unrealistic expectations

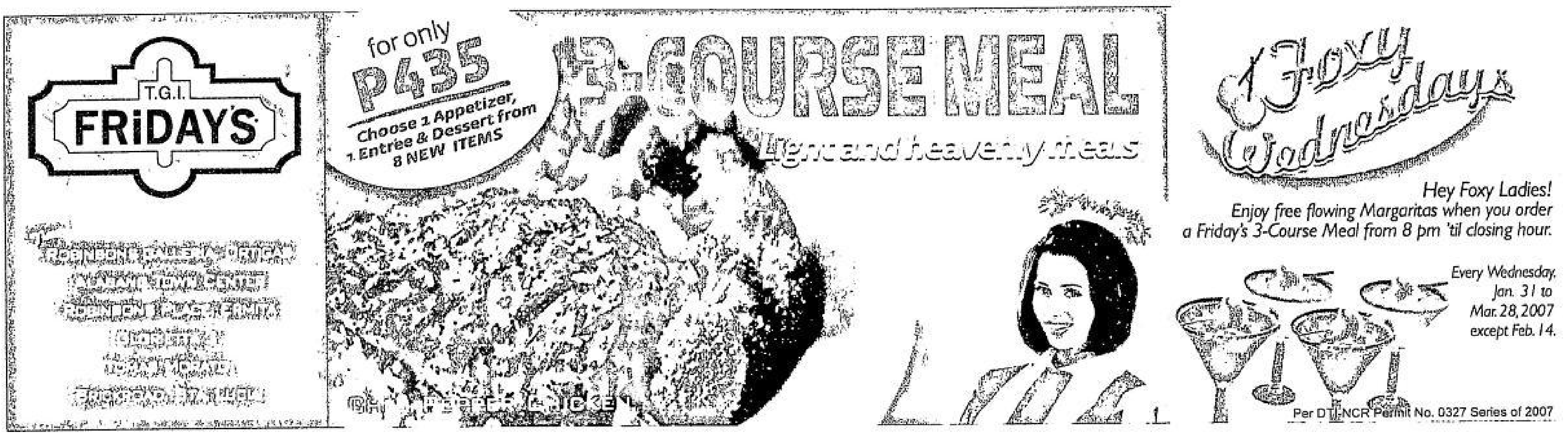
In high school, I started getting offers to model. Agents would approach me in malls to join their agencies, and I started reading a lot of teen magazines. More than anything else, I wanted to be a cover girl. I was obsessed with magazines. I bought them every month, checked out the items featured on their pages, and practically memorized the staff box.

What I didn't realize then was that the magazines created in me unrealistic expectations about myself: I was thin, but not thin enough; my teeth were too big, my skin wasn't as clear as the girls on the magazine had. And for the first time in my life, I wasn't tall enough: At just a little over 5'7", I couldn't make it to big modeling competitions. My previous insecurity was simply replaced with another insecurity, and I hated myself for not taking my vitamins.

At that time, I didn't know that magazine pages were heavily airbrushed, so I thought that maybe I just wasn't good enough, or maybe I was doing something wrong when I didn't get the modeling jobs I wanted.

Before fashion shows, I'd skip meals so I'd

ACCEPTING/ C3



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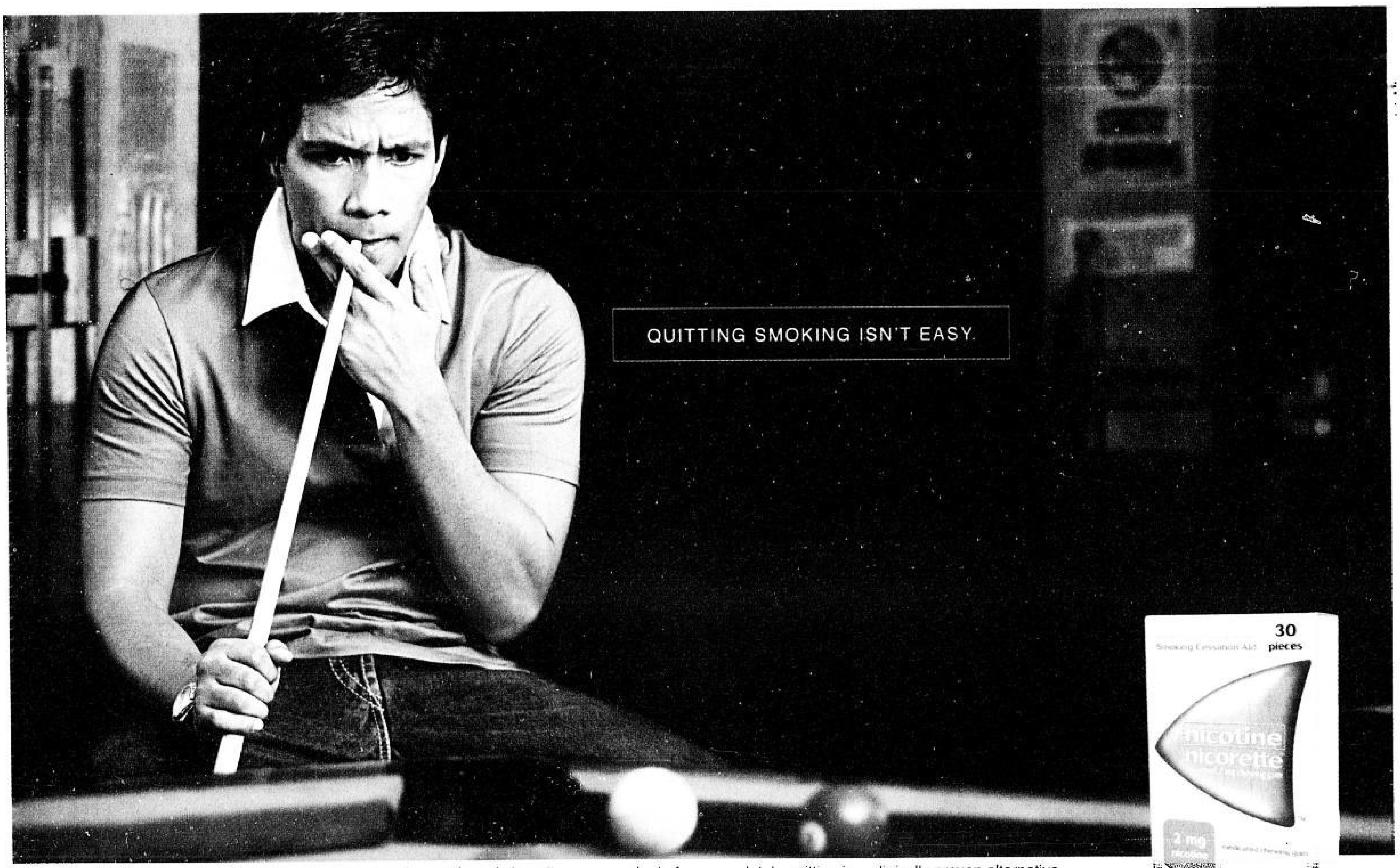

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Cut down with nicorette then stop.

Cut down then Stop

Have you ever tried quitting smoking and after all your attempts, find yourself smoking yet another stick of cigarette? Quitting instantly is not easy. Statistics show that up to 2/3 of people who attempted to quit smoking relapse within a few days.

Most people try to quit smoking "cold turkey" but become overwhelmed by the cravings and urge to smoke after. One of the main reasons is due to the addictive nicotine present in each cigarette stick. Quitting cold turkey is not for everyone and failed attempts to quit often leads to frustration and feeling of defeat. The good news is that there is hope for smokers out there who want to quit eventually. A solution is to CUT DOWN first, then eventually STOP. This is proven to be an effective alternative for people who want to gradually kick the habit. This method helps you be in command of your cigarette intake at a pace which puts you more in control.

Here are four steps that will help the smoker cut down, then stop.

Step 1: During the first six weeks, target the number of cigarettes to cut down per day and the date when to do so while using a Nicotine Replacement Therapy product such as the Nicorette (nicotine) gum to manage your cravings. It is recommended to have at least a 50% reduction in cigarettes per day for best results.

Step 2: Continue cutting down on your cigarettes and while using Nicorette up to six months from the first time you started cutting down on the

cigarettes.

Step 3: Within 9 months, stop smoking and continue the use of Nicorette to relieve cravings.

Step 4: Use of Nicorette is gradually reduced then stopped completely. With these 4 steps, being smoke-free is made more manageable and easy.

Nicorette gum has been clinically proven safe and effective to use. The World Health Organization advocates the use of NRT products, such as the Nicorette gum, as a valuable tool in the fight against cigarette smoking, and supports its use by smokers who wish to beat the habit.

Nicorette can be purchased without prescription in all Mercury Drugstores nationwide. For more information' on Nicorette, you can log on to <http://www.nicorette.com.ph/> www.nicorette.com.ph.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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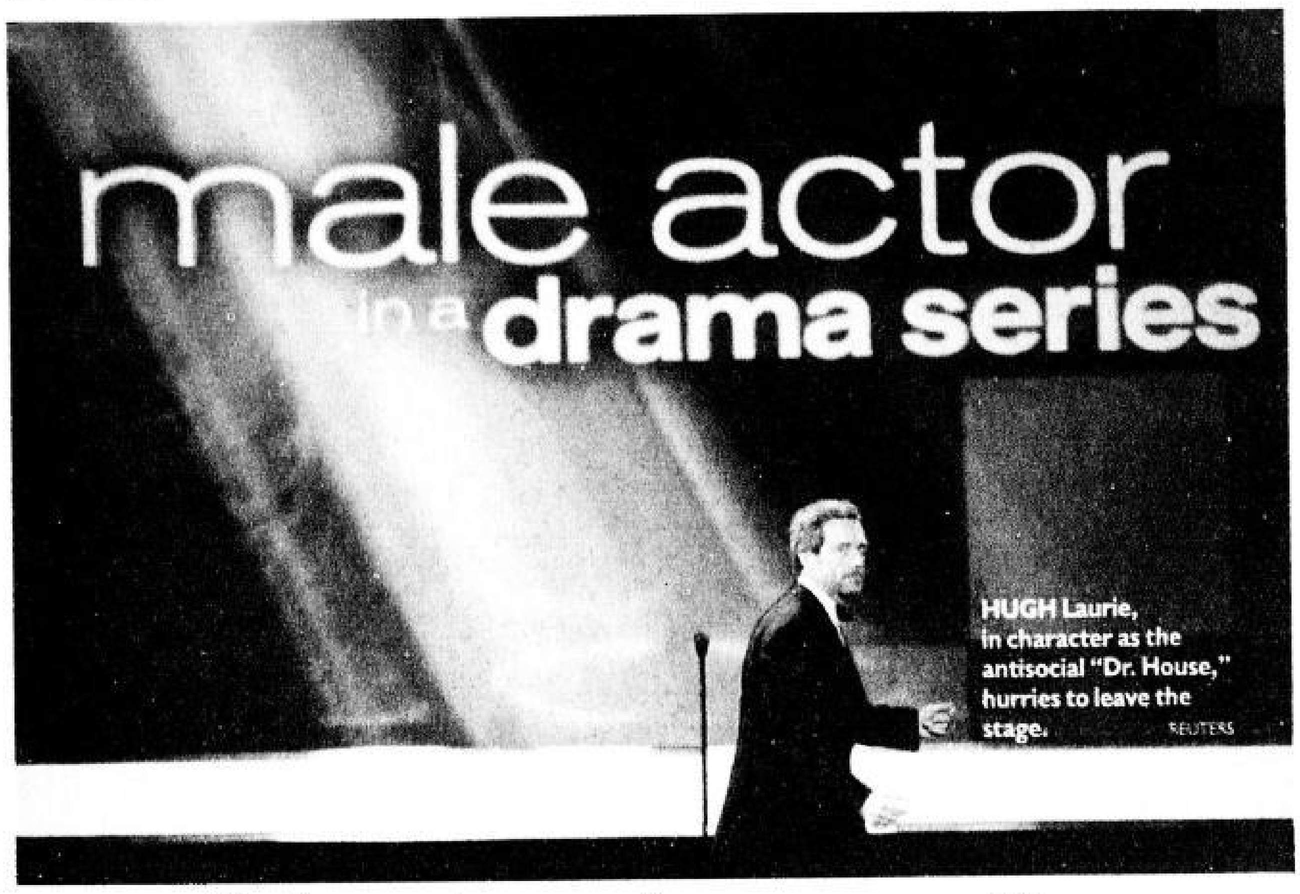

HUGH Laurie, in character as the antisocial "Dr. House," hurries to leave the stage. REUTERS

GROUP HUG for "Little Miss Sunshine" lead cast, top; Julie Andrews feels hot—is it Ashton Kutcher? REUTERS

AND I'M TELLING YOU... Jennifer Hudson speaks, and Jamie Foxx is all ears. REUTERS

Guild wins boost Oscar bets

HELEN Mirren, left, accepts her award from Jeremy Irons. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—QUIRKY COMEDY "Little Miss Sunshine" won the top prize at the Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, giving the underdog film about a family of losers a big boost in the Oscars race on Feb. 25.

Forest Whitaker and Helen Mirren seemed to solidify their Oscar hopes by winning SAG's Best Actor and Actress awards for their uncanny performances of world figures.

Actors make up the largest single voting group at the Oscars. Last year, their favorite "Crash" scored an upset victory over front-runner "Brokeback Mountain."

Whitaker won for his portrayal of Uganda's brutal dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland"; Mirren, for her role as Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen."

Unexpected

The naming of "Little Miss Sunshine" as Best Ensemble Cast Performance seemed to come as a shock to the cast. "I'm completely floored," said Greg Kinnear, who plays the father in the film. He said no one expected the film to come as far.

The film earlier won the Producers Guild, too, but it faces tough rivals for Oscar Best Picture, including Martin Scorsese's "The De-

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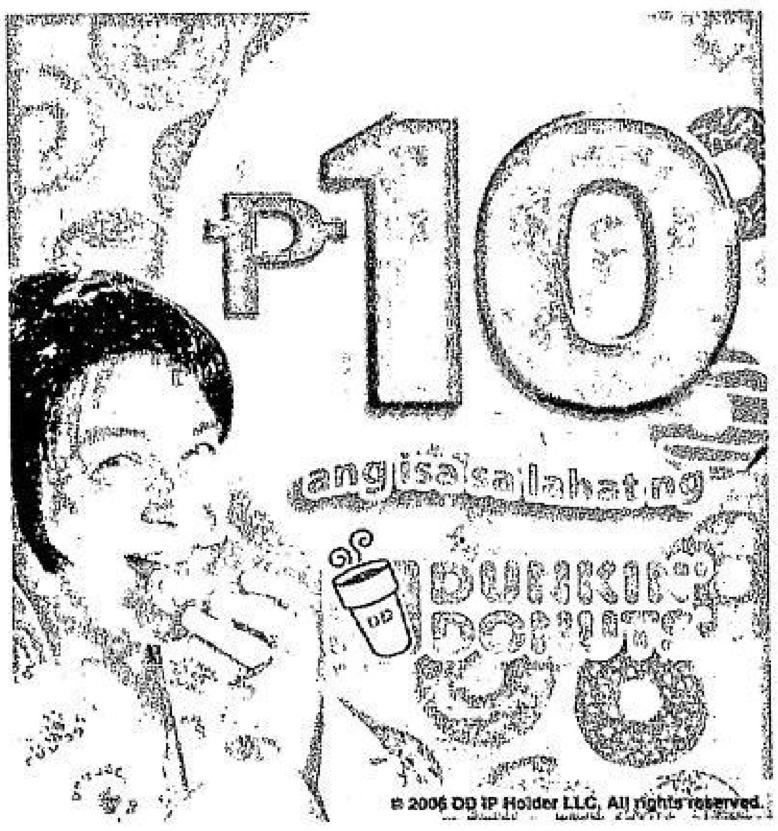

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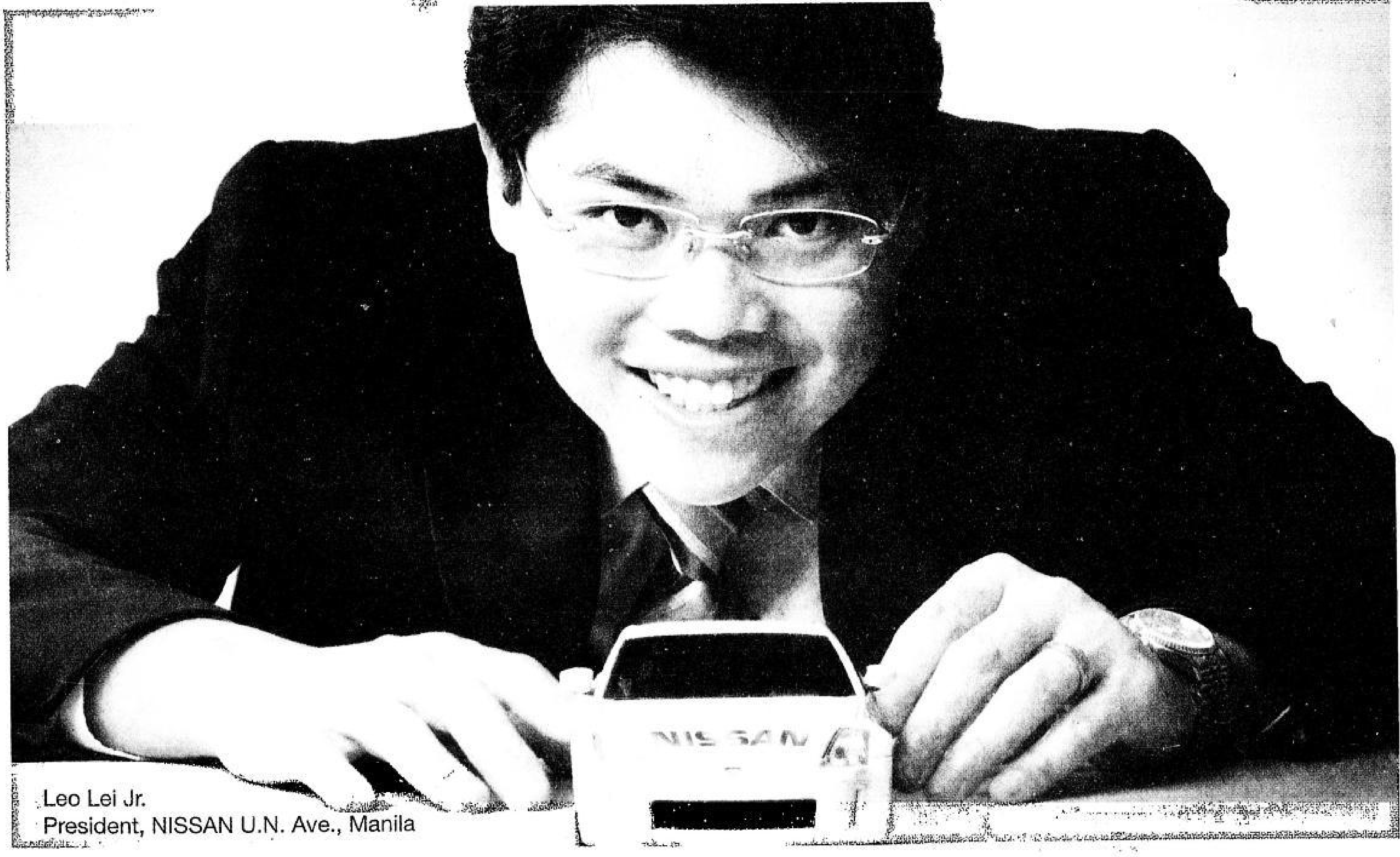
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Leo Lei Jr.
President, NISSAN U.N. Ave., Manila

"Sun keeps things rolling by saving us almost ₱40,000 a month."

Surprising isn't it? That even the President of Nissan, U.N. Ave., Manila can give so much time and attention to the tiniest of details. Details, which Leo thinks about everyday, surrounded by mini versions of the cars he sells. Keeping track of the small things like phone bills, is one reason why he switched to Sun.

"I was intrigued by the 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited service. I felt it would help us cut costs and be more efficient. Especially now that times are challenging, we really have to be concerned about expenses." And as information gets around faster, customers get what they want, just the way they want it. Sun excels at services that are tailor-fit to your business.

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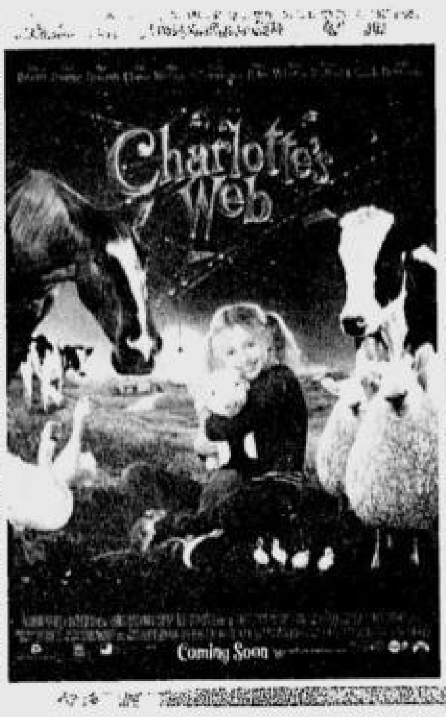

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2. BLOOD DIAMOND
3. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5. BABEL
6. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO/ AN INCONVENIENT TRUT

PREMIERE CINEMA
AGENT X44
CENTERSTAGE
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
CINEMA 2
CHARLOTTE'S WEB
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2. DEJA VU
3. BLOOD DIAMOND
4. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5. BABEL
6. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
7. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8. AGENT X44
9. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
10. ROB-B-HOOD
11. ERAGON
12. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1. BABEL
2. ERAGON
3. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5. DEJA VU
6. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
7. BLOOD DIAMOND
8. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
9. AGENT X44
10. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
11. ROB-B-HOOD
12. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. DEJA VU
3. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
4. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5. ROB-B-HOOD
6. AGENT X44
7. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
9. ERAGON
10. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
11. BLOOD DIAMOND
12. ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. ERAGON
3. AGENT X44
4. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
5. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
6. ROB-B-HOOD
7. DEJA VU
8. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
9. BLOOD DIAMOND
10. GRIDIRON GANG

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
3. ERAGON
4. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
5. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
6. AGENT X44

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4. AGENT X44
5. BABEL
6. ERAGON
7. DEJA VU
8. ROB-B-HOOD
9. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
3. AGENT X44
4. ERAGON

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
2. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3. ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4. ERAGON
5. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
6. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
7. BLOOD DIAMOND
8. BABEL
9. DEJA VU
10. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
11. ROB-B-HOOD
12. AGENT X44

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1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
3. AGENT X44
4. ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. TENACIOUS D
3. AGENT X44
4. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

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2. BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
3. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4. AGENT X44

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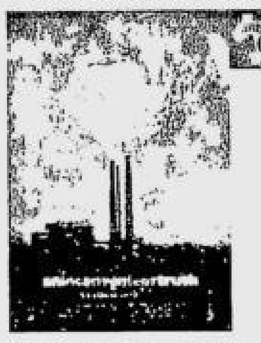

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6. AGENT X44
7. ROB-B-HOOD
8. DEJA VU

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1. DECK THE HALLS
2. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
4. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
5. AGENT X44
6. SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD

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1. ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
2. AGENT X44
3. SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL 8
4. SPIRIT TRAP

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1. ROB-B-HOOD
2. AGENT X44
3. SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
4. BLOOD DIAMOND

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9037081-85

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
3. AGENT X44
4. DECK THE HALLS
5. SPIRIT TRAP
6. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925

1. FRAGILE
2. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
3. AGENT X44
4. SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1. AGENT X44
2. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3. FEAST
4. BLOOD DIAMOND

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. AGENT X44
3. A GOOD YEAR
4. BLOOD DIAMOND

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. TENACIOUS D
3. AGENT X44
4. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66

1. AGENT X44
2. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
3. BLOOD DIAMOND
4. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1. BLOOD DIAMOND
2. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3. ERAGON
4. CHARLOTTE'S WEB
5. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
6. KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
7. AGENT X44
8. DEJA VU

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1. ROB-B-HOOD
2. RESERVED
3. GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
4. AGENT X44
5. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6. BLOOD DIAMOND
7. RESERVED
8. A GOOD YEAR

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2. SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
3. AGENT X44
4. SPIRIT TRAP
5. SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
6. A GOOD YEAR

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)850-2884

1. ROB-B-HOOD
2. ZU WARRIORS
3. AGENT X44
4. NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME
EVENT CALENDAR

MAXIMEDIA presents
[illegible]
MYMP In Love
THE VALENTINE CONCERT
February 14, 2007 • 8:30pm
THE CENTERSTAGE SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 9
Tickets at P500 - P800
(exclusive of [illegible])
RESERVED SEATS ON ALL SECTIONS
with special guest Top Suzara
TICKETWORLD 891-5610 / 891-9999

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-8116

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM • THX
2 APOCALYPTO
3 indieSine: ICU BED #7
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
5 BABEL
6 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
7 AGENT X44
8 ERAGON
9 SAW 3
10 LITTLE CHILDREN

ERMITA 636-7809 to 12

1 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
2 LITTLE CHILDREN
3 AGENT X44
4 BABEL
SAW 3
5 APOCALYPTO
6 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4 APOCALYPTO
5 LITTLE CHILDREN
6 AGENT X44
7 ROB-B-HOOD
8 SAW 3

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
3 APOCALYPTO
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

PIONEER 687-6378

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
3 APOCALYPTO
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

OPENING TODAY!

"A tamer Eddie Garcia gives a surprising performance!"
Mark Meily, film director

EDDIE GARCIA
ICU BED #7
with ANGEL AQUINO and IRMA ADLAWAN
only at indieSine
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
CATCH EDDIE GARCIA IN HIS MULTI-AWARDED PERFORMANCE!

STA ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 GRIFFIN AND PHOENIX
3 BLOOD DIAMOND
4 AGENT X44
5 ZU WARRIORS

LIPA (043) 757-3864 (043) 312-5870

1 GRIFFIN and PHOENIX / TENACIOUS D
2 SCHOOL FOR SCOUNDRELS
3 AGENT X44
4 DECK THE HALLS
5 SHAOLIN vs. EVIL DEAD 2

DASMARINAS (046) 852-2124 (046) 416-1332

1 APOCALYPTO
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD 2
4 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 DECK THE HALLS
2 APOCALYPTO
3 LIGALIG / LITTLE CHILDREN
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

IMUS (046) 876-3838 (046) 471-8186

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 APOCALYPTO
3 AGENT X44
4 SHAOLIN vs. EVIL DEAD 2

STARMILLS (045) 875-1827 (046) 961-6270

1 DECK THE HALLS
2 AGENT X44
3 SPIRIT TRAP
4 TENACIOUS D/GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
5 APOCALYPTO
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 A GOOD YEAR
5 FEAST
6 GRIFFIN & PHOENIX / AGENT X44

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 A GOOD YEAR
5 SPIRIT TRAP
6 GRIFFIN AND PHOENIX

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 395-2188 locs. 230 and 240

ROUNDUP

Writing workshop

Writer-director Jose Javier Reyes announces the launching of Imagine Nation, a media workshop center for aspiring and professional writers and film and television practitioners.

Reyes will personally conduct the sessions limited to 15 participants.

The initial courses are Basic Television Writing and Basic Screenwriting.

Applicants are required to submit their bio data, two ID photos and a sample of their writing in English or Pilipino not exceeding two pages.

Call 412-1469, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wanted: Female stars

Production 56, Maryo J. de los Reyes' production house and talent company, is looking for talented and good-looking female performers 14-18 years old—either solo, duo or group.

Applicants may send their bio data, photos (close-up and full body, plus group photos for group applicants) and demo CDs to Unit 405 West Mansion Condominium, 3 Zamboanga St., Brgy. Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City or via e-mail at productions56@yahoo.com.

Call 372-4505 or 411-5615.

Movie greats

The Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund) presents a grand production to pay tribute to Filipino movie greats.

Slated on Feb. 23 at the Aliw Theater, the tribute will honor stars who have made tremendous contribution to the Filipino movie industry.

To be honored are National Artist Don Jose Nepomuceno, National Artist Atang de la Rama, legendary screen love team Rogelio de la Rosa and Carmen Rosales and Rosa del Rosario.

National Artist for Film Fernando Poe Jr., the Dolphy and Panchito comedy tandem and former President Joseph Estrada will also be honored.

"I Shouldn't Be Alive"

Survival stories

The series "I Shouldn't Be Alive" enters its second season on Discovery Channel, showcasing the world's incredible stories of survival.

The following new episodes air at 10 p.m.: "Frozen at 20,000 Feet," Feb. 12; "Trapped Under The Ice," Feb. 19; "Into The Heart of Darkness," Feb. 26; "Blood in the Water," March 5; "Dive Into Danger," March 12; "Nightmare Canyon," March 19.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 APOCALYPTO MTRCB R-18 1.00, 4 00, 7 00, 10 00	3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM MTRCB GP
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB MTRCB GP 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10 00	4 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE MTRCB PG-13 12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE BABEL MTRCB PG 13

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang
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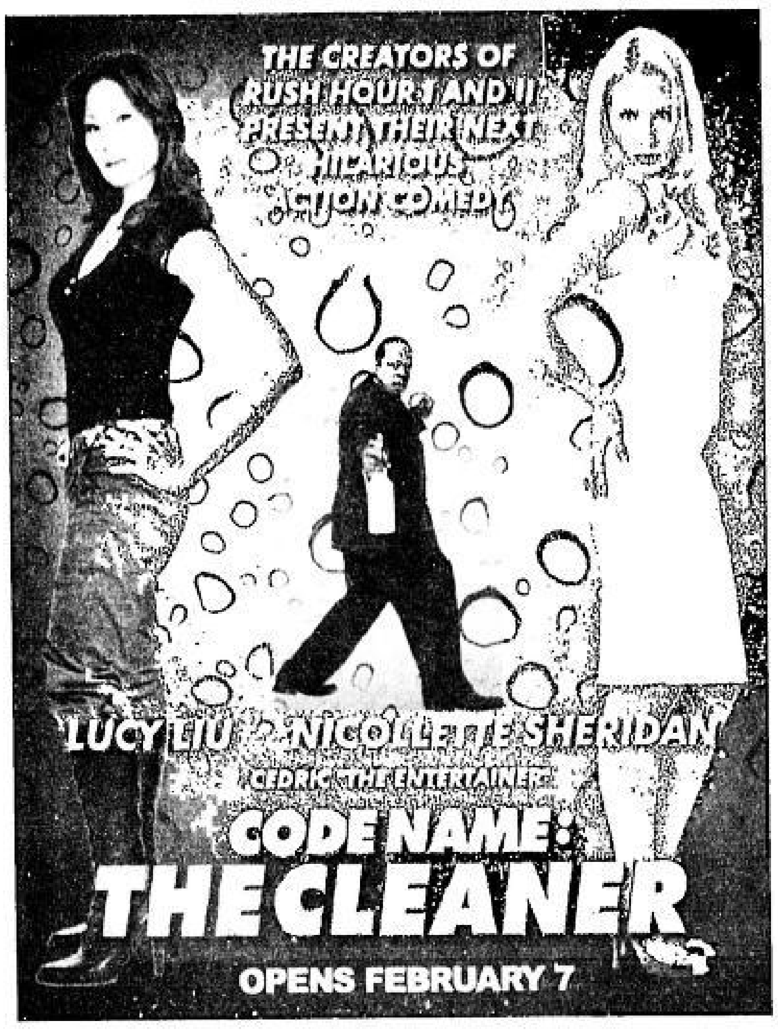
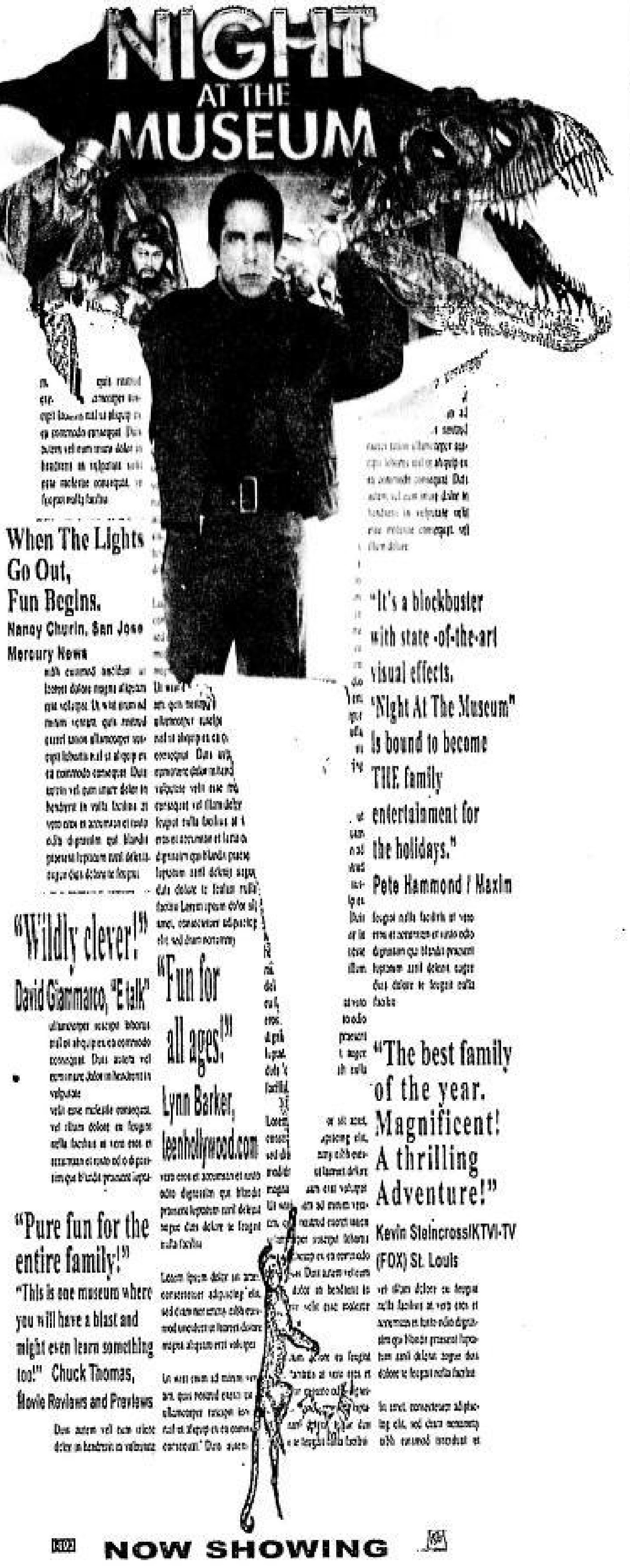
Premiere Rewards- for the Premiere Theatre

6th floor Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851 loc 4710 1710 or 633-2227
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza


THE CREATORS OF RUSH HOUR I AND II PRESENT THEIR NEXT HILARIOUS ACTION COMEDY
LUCY LIU · NICOLLETTE SHERIDAN
CEDRIC "THE ENTERTAINER"
CODE NAME: THE CLEANER
OPENS FEBRUARY 7

MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED



When The Lights Go Out, Fun Begins.
Nancy Churin, San Jose Mercury News

"Wildly clever!"
David Giammarco, "E talk"

"Fun for all ages!"
Lynn Barker, teenhollywood.com

"Pure fun for the entire family!"
"This is one museum where you will have a blast and might even learn something too!" Chuck Thomas, Movie Reviews and Previews

"It's a blockbuster with state-of-the-art visual effects. "Night At The Museum" is bound to become THE family entertainment for the holidays."
Pete Hammond / Maxim

"The best family of the year. Magnificent! A thrilling Adventure!"
Kevin Steincross/KTVI-TV (FOX) St. Louis

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EASTWOOD CITY-WIDE SALE

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up to 70% discount on selected items from retail shops

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The perfect & grandest way to welcome year 2007!

Eastwood City

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text **eastwood** and send to **2948** for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	G
2	APOCALYPTO	2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10	R-18
3	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	G
4	BLOOD & CHOCOLATE	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	BABEL	PG-13
CINEMA 2	BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE	PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinotertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	APOCALYPTO	R-18
CINEMA 4	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	GP
CINEMA 5	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

Feb. 02 & 03, 2007	Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby	8:30 PM
Feb 7 & 8, 2007	Agot Isidro "Back to Basics"	8:30 PM
Feb 13 & 14, 2007	Ogie Alcasid	8:00 PM
Feb 16 & 17, 2007	Passion Y Fuego	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
Feb. 06 & 20, 2007	DYORDS KO PO	8:30 PM
February 11, 2007	LOVI POE "A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION"	9:00 PM
Feb 13 & 14, 2007	RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

glorietta · GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! · Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 APOCALYPTO	2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	3 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE	4 AGENT X44
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB	2 BABEL	3 THX APOCALYPTO GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HOLLYWOODLAND	5 STRANGER THAN FICTION	6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	7 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 APOCALYPTO	2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX APOCALYPTO GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 HOLLYWOODLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BABEL GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CHARLOTTE'S WEB GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX APOCALYPTO GUARANTEED SEATS	2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM		
	3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB	4 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE	5 BABEL	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 APOCALYPTO	2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB	3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	4 GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 APOCALYPTO	2 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE		
	3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB	4 AGENT X44	5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Ford Car Exhibit January 24 to 30, 2007	Power Rangers Space Patrol Delta (SPD) Meet & Greet Event January 21, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Artbeat Album Launching January 28, 2007	Nestle Breakfast Cereals Event January 6 to 7, 2007

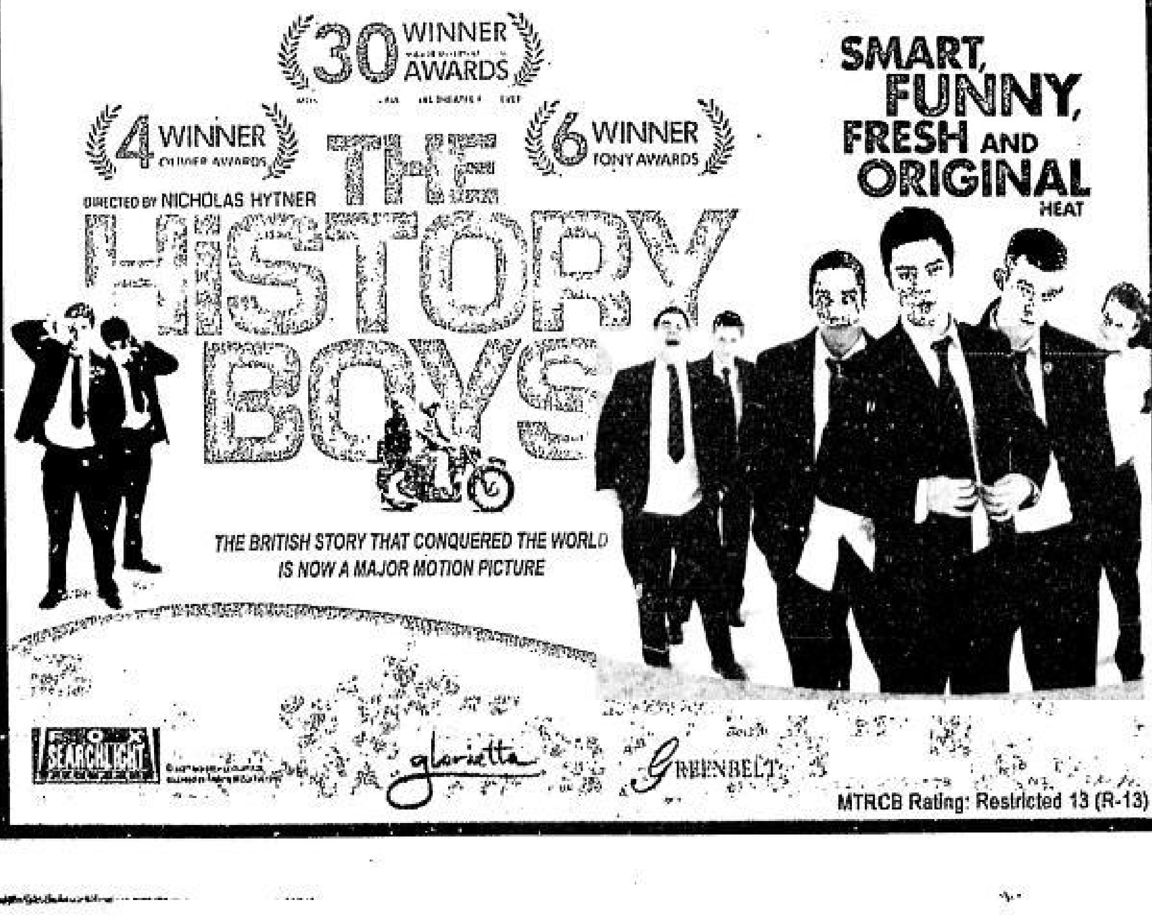
GREENBELT — Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents Collection of Jun Escario
January 24 to February 4, 2007

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents MOOSE MURDERS
at REP's Globe Theater - January 12 to 28, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Zero-In 5 Convergence Black Bouquet: Juvenal Sanso Prints
Until March 11, 2007
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

MEET THE BOYS WHO ARE MAKING HISTORY STARTING FEBRUARY 7 *exclusively* AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

Ayala Malls CINEMAS


30 WINNER AWARDS
4 WINNER OLIVIER AWARDS
6 WINNER TONY AWARDS
DIRECTED BY NICHOLAS HYTNER
THE HISTORY BOYS
SMART, FUNNY, FRESH AND ORIGINAL HEAT
THE BRITISH STORY THAT CONQUERED THE WORLD IS NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE
FOX SEARCHLIGHT
glorietta
GREENBELT

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Ayala Malls
MAKE SPACE FOR THE AYALA MALLS GRAND '07 SALE
glorietta
GREENBELT
TOWN
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0070, Series of 2007.

ANGELINA JOLIE'S MOM DIES IN LA

LOS ANGELES—Marcheline Bertrand, actress and mother of Angelina Jolie, has died of cancer, her daughter said Sunday (Monday in Manila). Bertrand died Saturday afternoon at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after a battle with cancer that lasted more than seven years, Jolie said in a statement. No age was provided. Jolie, Brad Pitt and her older brother, James Haven, were at the hospital Saturday. Bertrand, who had small roles in the movies "Lookin' to Get Out" in 1982 and "The Man Who Loved Women" in 1983, raised Jolie and Haven after divorcing their father, Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight, when Jolie was a toddler. A private funeral was planned.

AP

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Shangri-La Cineplex
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2127 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) APOCALYPTO
2 (DOLBY) CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 (DOLBY) BLOOD & CHOCOLATE
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) BABEL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 AGENT X 44
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 BLOOD DIAMOND

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 DÉJÀ VU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 ERAGON
3 KAMASUTRA-3
4 A GOOD YEAR

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 DÉJÀ VU
3 AGENT X 44
4 LITTLE CHILDREN

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 AGENT X 44
2 LIGALIG (BATANG MAYNILA)

Eastwood CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.5963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2 (DOLBY) APOCALYPTO
3 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 (DOLBY) BLOOD & CHOCOLATE

starmall
EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 AGENT X 44
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LITTLE CHILDREN
5 RESRVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433994
1 AGENT X 44
2 LITTLE CHILDREN
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 BLOOD DIAMOND

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SAW - 3
2 AGENT X 44
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4

THEATRES
1 ROB-B-HOOD
2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 AGENT X 44
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DÉJÀ VU
2 AGENT X 44
3 ERAGON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU
4 ROB-B-HOOD

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SAW - 3 / ROB-B-HOOD
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 ERAGON
4 DÉJÀ VU
5 BABEL
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
7 BLOOD DIAMOND
8 LITTLE CHILDREN
9 KASAL KASALI KASALO
10 AGENT X 44

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 AGENT X 44
3 DÉJÀ VU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 AGENT X 44
2 ERAGON

Llanas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 8241927
1 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 (DOLBY) AGENT X 44
3 (DOLBY) ROB-B-HOOD
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SPIRIT TRAP
2 BAYARAN
3 BASA SA DAGAT
4 ERAGON

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SAW - 3
2 ROOM SERVICE
3 AGENT X 44
4 DAMITAN
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 LITTLE CHILDREN
3 AGENT X 44
4 KAMASUTRA-3
5 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ZU WARRIOR
2 SPIRIT TRAP
3 AGENT X 44
4 SAW - 3

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3051 / 533.3856
1 AGENT X 44
2 SHAOLIN EVIL DEAD -3
3 PLAESE CALL
4 RESERVED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD
2 KAMASUTRA - 3

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

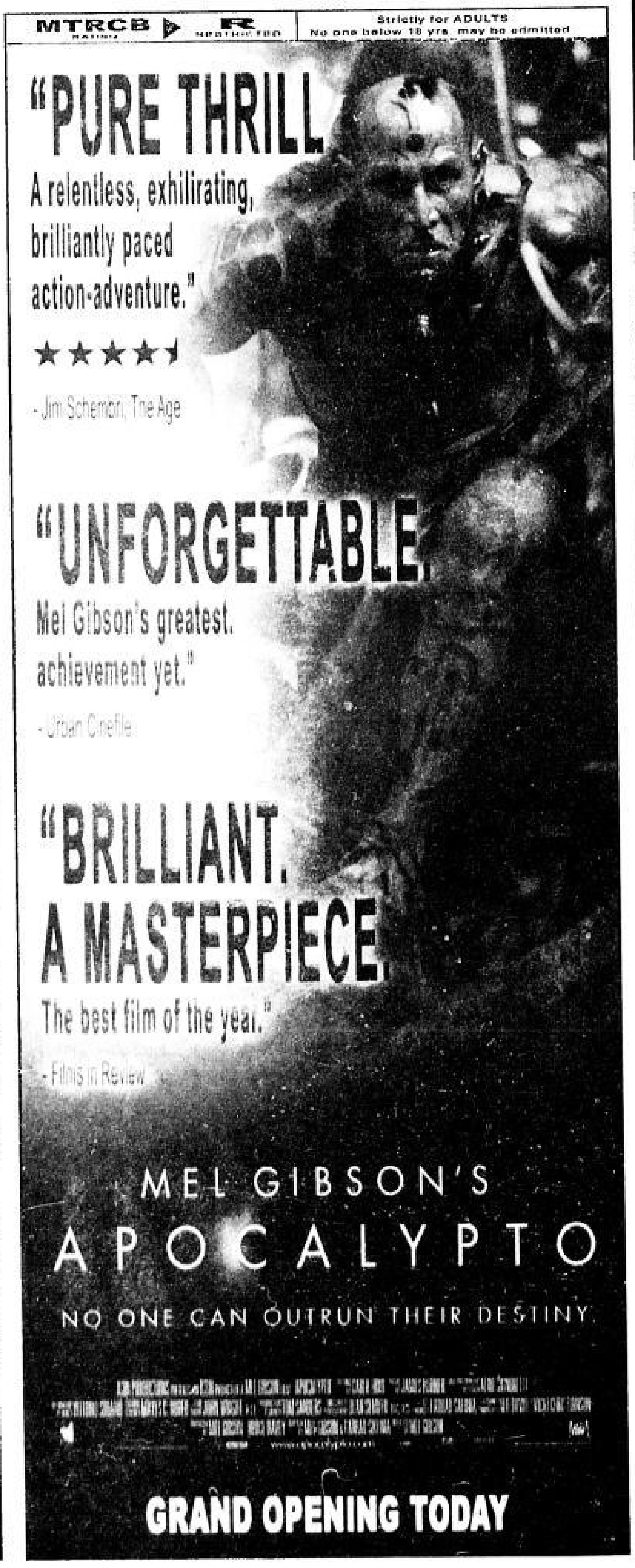
DÉJÀ VU PG13	CHARLOTTE WEB G	BABEL PG13
APOCALYPTO R18	BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM G

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
MATINEE 110.00 FREE SEATING SCREENING BEFORE 5:00P.M. - MONDAY-FRIDAY

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | STRICTLY FOR 18 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
EXCLUSIVELY SHOWING IN THE FF. CINEMAS: ROBINSON'S ERMITA, ROBINSON'S GALLERIA, ROBINSON'S PIONEER, ROBINSON'S METRO EAST, CINERAMA, GLORIETTA, GOTESCO CITY, GOTESCO ORTIGAS, STA. LUCIA, GATEWAY, ALI MALL, GREEN HILLS, SHANGRI-LA, EASTWOOD, POWERPLANT, MARKET-MARKET, WALTERMART, FILINVEST, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, METROPOLITAN
THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL FILM OF THE YEAR

3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS BEST SCREENPLAY
SAN FRANCISCO FILM CRITICS CIRCLE WINNER
BEST PICTURE
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR BEST SCREENPLAY
Temptation
Perversion
Deception
Little Children
Kate Winslet
Jennifer Connelly
Patrick Wilson

NOW SHOWING


MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
"PURE THRILL
A relentless, exhilirating, brilliantly paced action-adventure."
★★★★
- Jim Schembri, The Age
"UNFORGETTABLE.
Mel Gibson's greatest achievement yet."
- Urban Cinefile
"BRILLIANT. A MASTERPIECE.
The best film of the year."
- Films in Review
MEL GIBSON'S
APOCALYPTO
NO ONE CAN OUTRUN THEIR DESTINY
GRAND OPENING TODAY

They say children see what adults do not.
But no one listens. No one believes.
Now, no one will live.
SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1, 2 & 3
& PRODUCER OF THE GRUDGE SERIES
presents
THE MESSENGERS
OPENS FEBRUARY 7
GHOST HOUSE
sony.com/TheMessengers
VIVA

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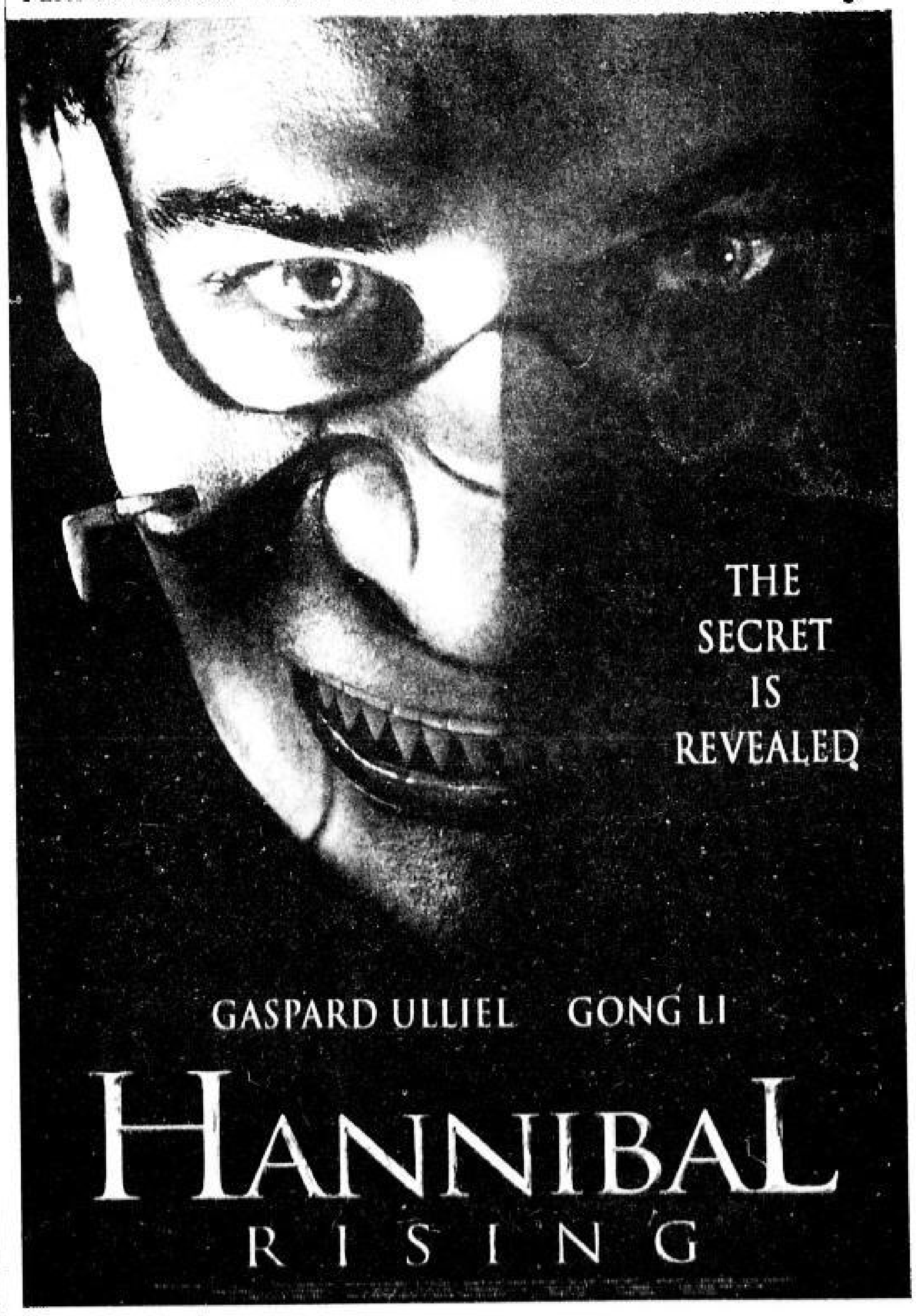

THE SECRET IS REVEALED
GASPARD ULLIEL
GONG LI
HANNIBAL RISING

Sibling acts in show business

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ENTERTAINERS BECOME STARS partly because they have something unique to offer to the show biz audience. And yet, for some instructive reasons, quite a number of stars' siblings have tried to parlay their familial relationship into a stardom of their own. Even more tellingly, only a few succeed—and therein lies a cautionary tale.

Examples are rife: The less than stellar siblings of Sylvester Stallone, Julia Roberts and Beyonce Knowles.

And, on the local scene, Ronnie Ricketts, Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, Judy Ann Santos, Aga Muhlach and Cesar Montano.

Despite the odds stacked up against them, however, a number of sibling acts in show business have managed to achieve a shared stardom. Examples include silent-film luminaries Lillian and Dorothy Gish, sensitive actresses whose performances remain precious and moving to this day.

Some years later, the Barrymore clan produced a number of stars, establishing America's first "royal" family in the theater and cinema. A number of generations later, Drew Barrymore continues to bring honor to the esteemed family's name.

And, can the Fondas be far behind? Henry Fonda beat Jane and Peter, and a generation later, Bridget is keeping the family name up on the marquee. Not that Jane has opted to mothball her own stellar career: A few film seasons ago, she was feisty and wicked in "Monster-in-Law."

For their part, Shirley MacLaine and Warren Beatty make up a rather mismatched pair of stellar siblings. Shirley was the first to make it in comedies and musicals, while darkly handsome Warren was prime leading man material when he got his start in the movies.

Rather than hitching a free ride on his sibling's popularity, as some other stars do, Beatty opted to make it on his own—and he's gone even farther than his older sister.

He's made a name for himself not just as an actor, but also as a director, and was recently honored with a life achievement award at the Golden Globes.

Of much more recent vintage are the sibling acts of the Wilson and Baldwin brothers—and Wayans brothers are also doing very well, thank you.

One thing about the Wayans brothers, they go out of their way to help each other, acting in the same movies, directing one another, and generally moving up in the film world as a team.

Other notable sibling acts in the biz: Ralph and Joseph Fiennes, Joan Fontaine and Olivia De Havilland, Jake and Maggie Gyllenhaal—and locally, Asunta and Alessandra De Rossi, Anjo and Jomari Yllana and all of the Quizon brothers.

'Pagsalubong sa 2007'

Snack Arts recently held its traditional "Pagsalubong sa Bagong Taon" charitable activity for deprived and disadvantaged children at SM North Edsa, with the National Orthopedic School for Crippled Children and Mowelfund kids as beneficiaries.

It is the 19th year that journalist-talent manager Bibsy Carballo has celebrated the event with celebrities generously sharing their talents with the kids.

"Pagsalubong" was hosted by Bodjie Pascua, Adriana Agcaoili, Miguel Castro and Roanne Mallari. Two hundred children filled the activity center for three hours of songs and dances (crippled children in wheelchairs participating), plus food, games and gifts.

'Rise of the Silver Surfer'

The trailer of "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer" is currently being shown in theaters screening "Night at the Museum." The trailer blasts off when the Fantastic Four meet their greatest challenge, as the Silver Surfer comes to planet Earth to prepare it for destruction.

NOW ON DISC

Direct to DVD

Warner Home Video presents "A Scanner Darkly" exclusively on DVD and VCD.

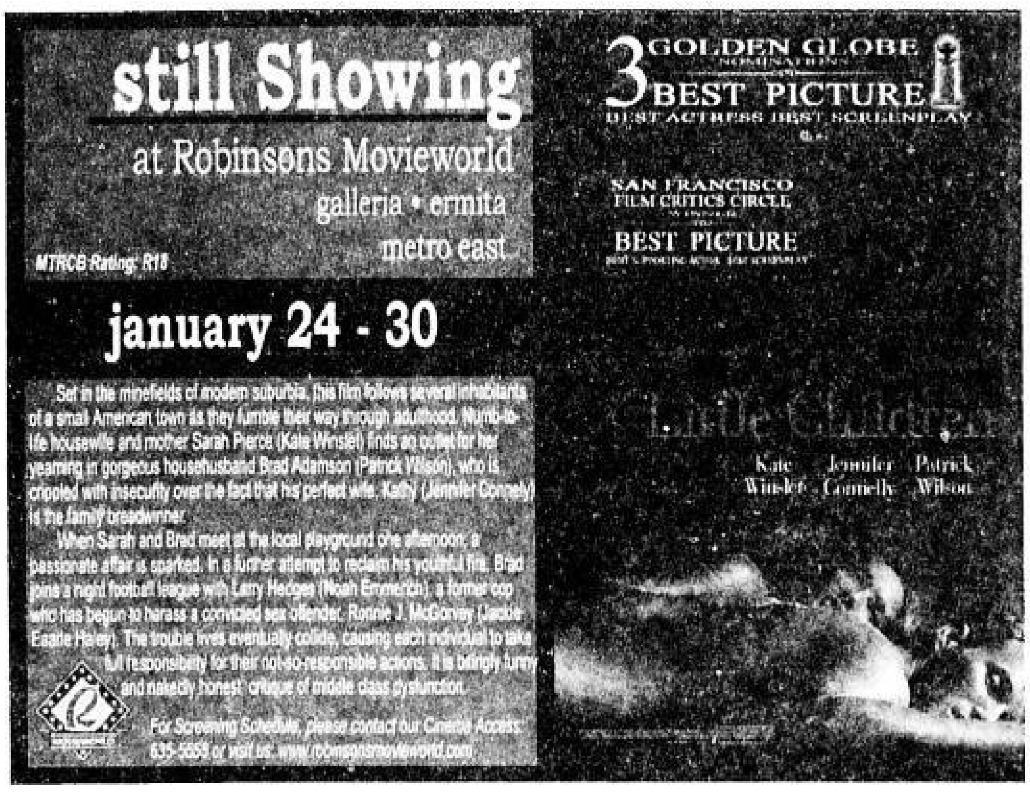
From the original author of "Blade Runner," "Total Recall" and "Minority Report," the movie is set in a not-too-distant future where America has lost its "war" on drugs.

Fred, an undercover cop, is hooked on the popular drug, Substance D, which causes its users to develop split personalities.

He is obsessed with taking down Bob, a notorious drug dealer, but due to his Substance D addiction, he does not know that he is also Bob.

Starring Keanu Reeves, Winona Ryder, Robert Downey Jr. and Woody Harrelson, the movie is directed by Richard Linklater based on the classic novel by Philip K. Dick.

The movie will be available for P425 on DVD and P250 on VCD.



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MTRCB Rating: R18
january 24 - 30

Set in the minefields of modern suburbia, this film follows several inhabitants of a small American town as they fumble their way through adulthood. Numb-to-life housewife and mother Sarah Pierce (Kate Winslet) finds an outlet for her yearning in gorgeous househusband Brad Adamson (Patrick Wilson), who is crippled with insecurity over the fact that his perfect wife, Kathy (Jennifer Connely) is the family breadwinner.

When Sarah and Brad meet at the local playground one afternoon, a passionate affair is sparked. In a further attempt to reclaim his youthful fire, Brad joins a night football league with Larry Hedges (Noah Emmerich), a former cop who has begun to harass a convicted sex offender, Ronnie J. McGorvey (Jackie Esatle Haley). The trouble lives eventually collide, causing each individual to take full responsibility for their not-so-responsible actions. It is bitingly funny and nakedly honest critique of middle class dysfunction.

For Screening Schedule, please contact our Cinema Access: 635-5659 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

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CHARLOTTE'S WEB 12:00 / 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
BLOOD & CHOCOLATE 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 11:50 / 2:20 / 4:50 / 7:20 / 9:50
AGENT X-44 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
SAW 3 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
APOCALYPTO 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5
1 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE 12:05 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30
3 APOCALYPTO 2:10 R5 / 1:50 / 4:50 / 7:50
4 LITTLE CHILDREN
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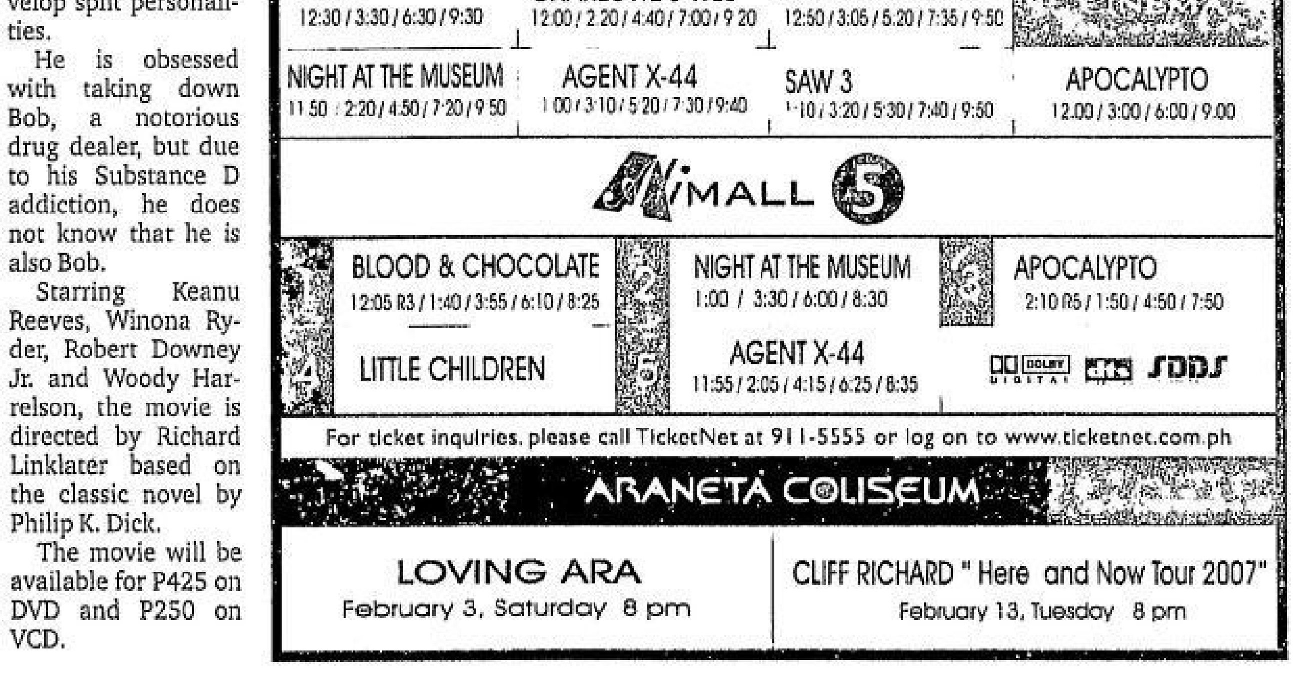

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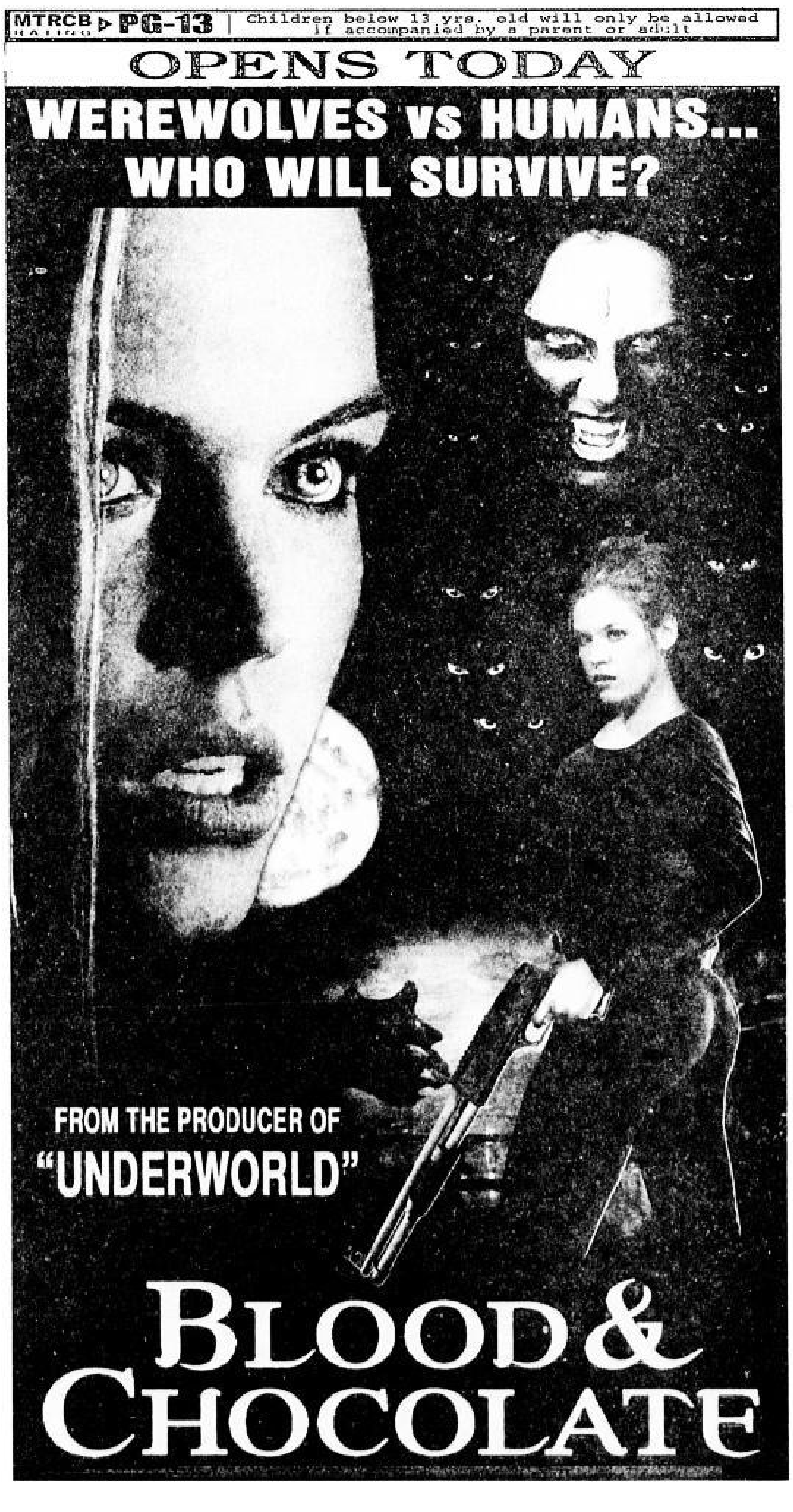


MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
OPENS TODAY
WEREWOLVES vs HUMANS... WHO WILL SURVIVE?
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "UNDERWORLD"
BLOOD & CHOCOLATE

FOREST WHITAKER is struck speechless. AFP

Guild wins boost . . .

From page D1

parted" and "Babel."

Mirren won both for her work as Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen" and for Best Actress in a Television Mini-Series or Movie for her work as the original Elizabeth in the HBO drama "Elizabeth I."

Speechless

She said she initially was dismayed at the prospect of donning Elizabeth II's conservative wardrobe. "But I learned to love the person ... because I learned to love a person without vanity, but with a great sense of discipline that I understand."

The soft-spoken Whitaker was struck speechless, rambling through some awkward words of gratitude. "I want to thank you for allowing me to have a moment like this," he said.

"THE NAZI" Chandra Wilson leads "Grey's" cast on the way to the stage. REUTERS

Eddie Murphy and newcomer Jennifer Hudson were named Best Supporting Actor and Actress for "Dreamgirls." Hudson thanked her co-stars, who included Murphy, Jamie Foxx and Beyonce Knowles: "Because of you, I was able to work with and learn from the best. Yes, you are the best."

Jeremy Irons won for Best Actor in a Television Movie or Mini-Series for his work in "Elizabeth I."

In TV awards, "Grey's Anatomy" was named Best Ensemble Drama and "The Office" was named Best Ensemble Comedy.

Two "doctors" scored major victories: Chandra Wilson, Best Actress in a Drama Series for her work as a tough doctor in "Grey's Anatomy"; and Hugh Laurie, her Best Actor counterpart, as the brilliant but snappish physician in "House."

Cheers

Alec Baldwin was named Best Actor in a Comedy Series for his work in "30 Rock"; America Ferrera, Best Actress in a Comedy for her work in "Ugly Betty."

The guild honored British veteran Julie Andrews with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Andrews received a standing ovation from an audience that included her husband of nearly 37 years, Blake Edwards, whom Andrews called "my main squeeze."

"I have one very tiny complaint," she said. "When he directs me in a love scene, he says, 'That was fine, but I know you can do better.'" *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

OPENING TODAY

Apocalypto

Stars Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernandez, Mayra Serbulo, Gerardo Taracena, Raoul Trujillo

Directed by Mel Gibson

Set in the last days of the Mayan empire and told in the Yucatec dialect, Gibson's latest epic is a conventional Hollywood adventure recounting "a man's struggle to save his family." Laura Emerick of Chicago Sun-Times comments: "[The filmmaker's] "reliance on breathtaking vistas and set pieces ... advances the story with a minimum of dialogue." Kirk Honeycutt of The Hollywood Reporter: "A brilliant ethnographic thriller of ancient times" marred by "over-the-top violence." David Ansen of Newsweek: "The film is mostly successful in transporting the viewer to another age: the costumes, body markings [and] fierce masks, all feel right."

Charlotte's Web

Stars Dakota Fanning and featuring the voices of Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey, Kathy Bates, Steve Buscemi

Directed by Gary Winick

Based on the children's book by E.B. White, this "gossamer dream" recounts the unlikely friendship between a lovable pig and the wise spider that saves the former from the slaughterhouse. Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly raves: "[Its] sweet-souled humor ... brings to the screen a vision of the world that ... is religious in the deepest sense." Jessica Grose of The Village Voice: "[The film] manages to modernize this classic tale without losing the gravity and essential dignity of animals grappling with mortality." Kevin Crust of Los Angeles Times is disappointed: "[The director gave the film a] "soft, timeless look, but the effect is largely flat. The ad promises magic, but ... what it delivers is uneventful."

Hollywoodland

Stars Adrien Brody, Diane Lane, Ben Affleck, Bob Hoskins, Robin Tunney

Directed by Allan Coulter

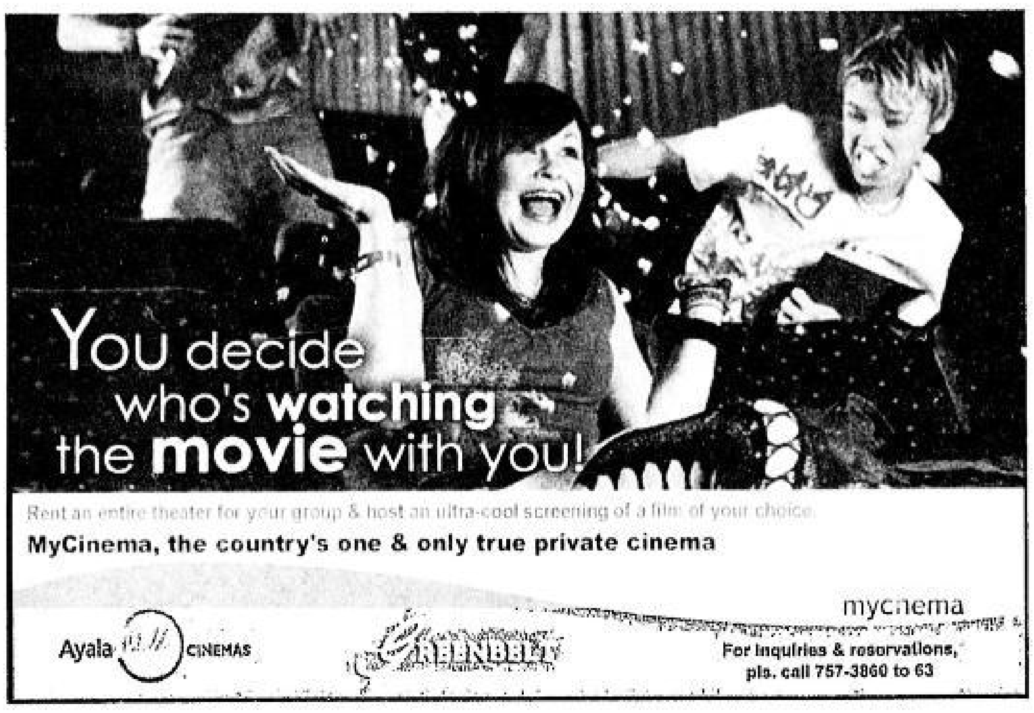
A "desperate, deluded" detective (Brody) thinks he can solve the mystery of Superman's apparent suicide. But in investigating the death of actor George Reeves (Affleck), he uncovers salacious secrets in Tinseltown. Peter Tavers of Rolling Stone hails it as "a steadily engrossing movie that sees Reeves as human and treats his life and death with intelligence and compassion ... [It's] pungent and powerful." Gene Seymour of Newsday praises the "literate, engrossing script ... and level-headed, evocative direction ... but, mostly it's the actors who raise [the film] above its calculatedly noirish trappings." John Thomason of Orlando Weekly differs: "Laboring and needlessly long ... bearing all the trappings of lazy cutting-room manipulation, it presents a puzzle hardly worth solving."

Blood and Chocolate

Stars Agnes Bruckner, Hugh Dancy, Olivier Martinez, Bryan Dick

Directed by Katja von Garnier

Based on a Gothic novel by Annette Curtis Klause and produced by Lakeshore (the same company behind "Underworld"), this thriller has been described as "a werewolf movie crossed with a Harlequin romance." James Berardinelli of ReelViews puts it succinctly: "A 'Romeo and Juliet' affair, only with a little more fur involved." Berardinelli rants: "The special effects are adequate, although not special ... [It's saddled with] an overripe screenplay where half the dialogue is so bad even an A-list actor would have trouble ... The actors were not chosen on the basis of their thespian talents. [The lead actress'] performance lacks shading and subtlety."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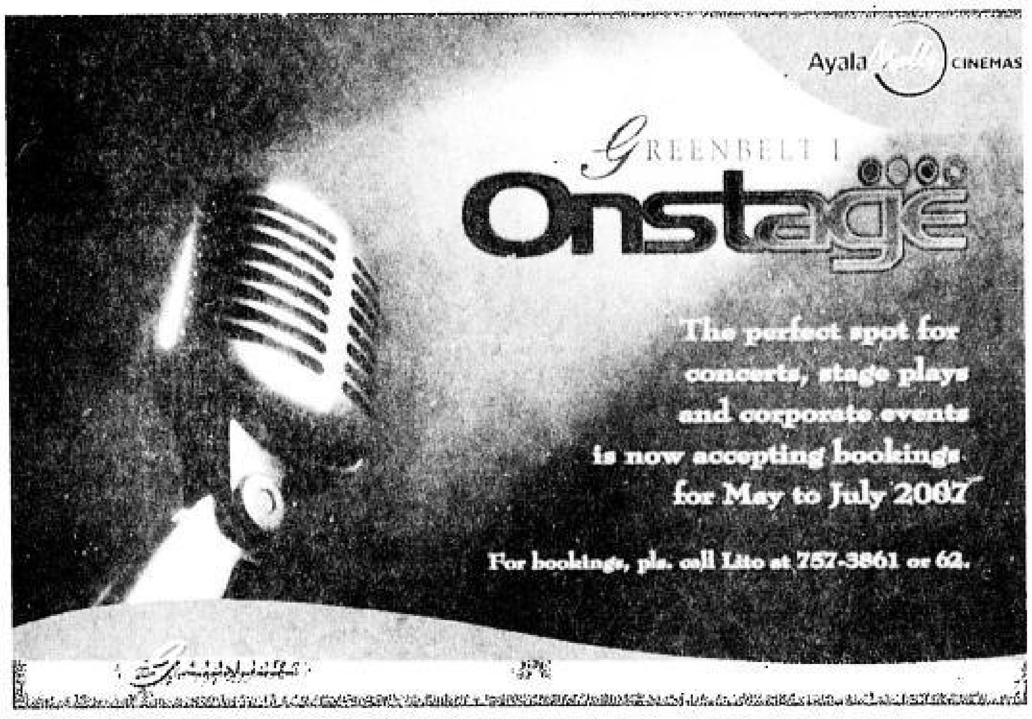
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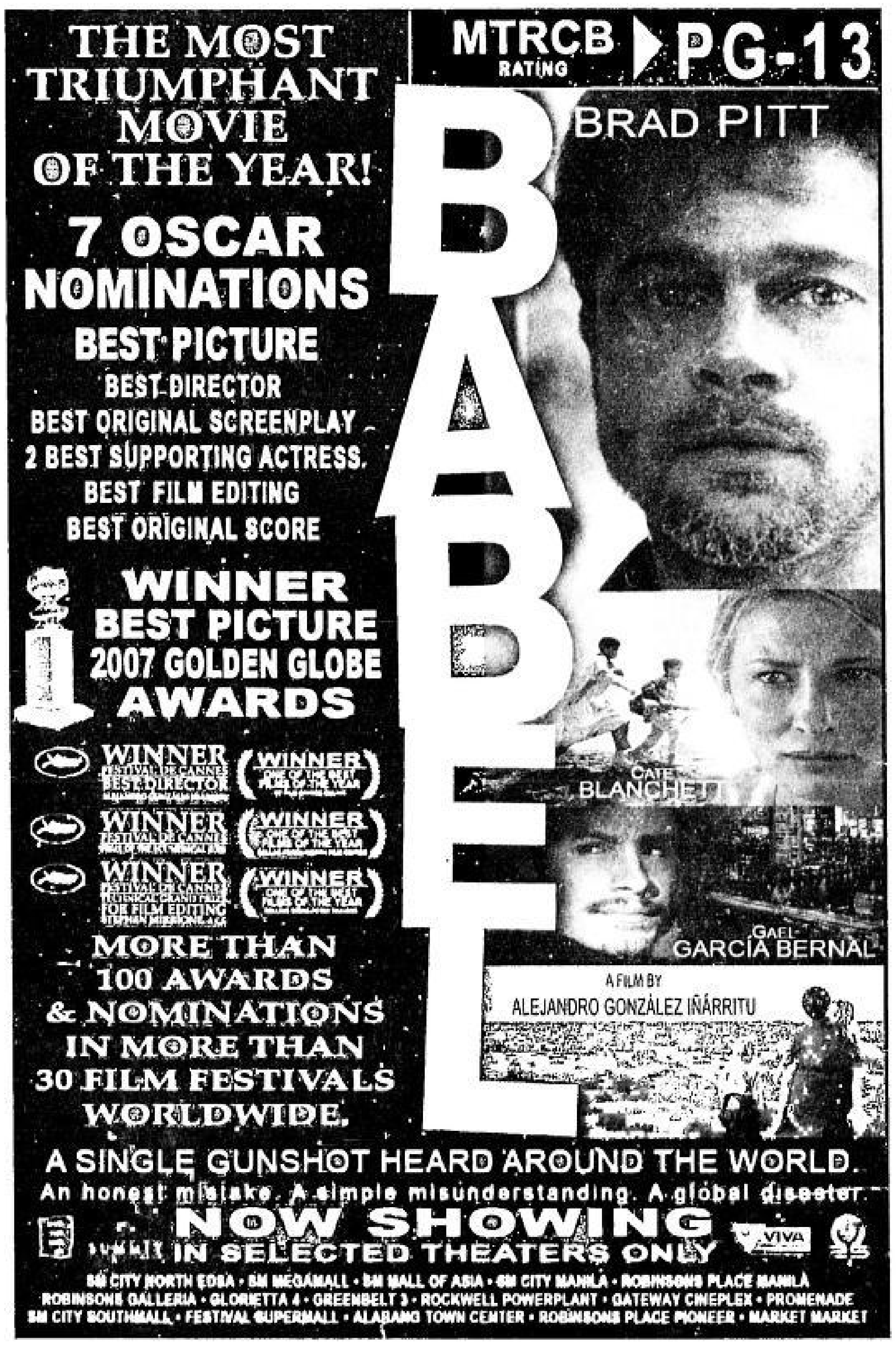
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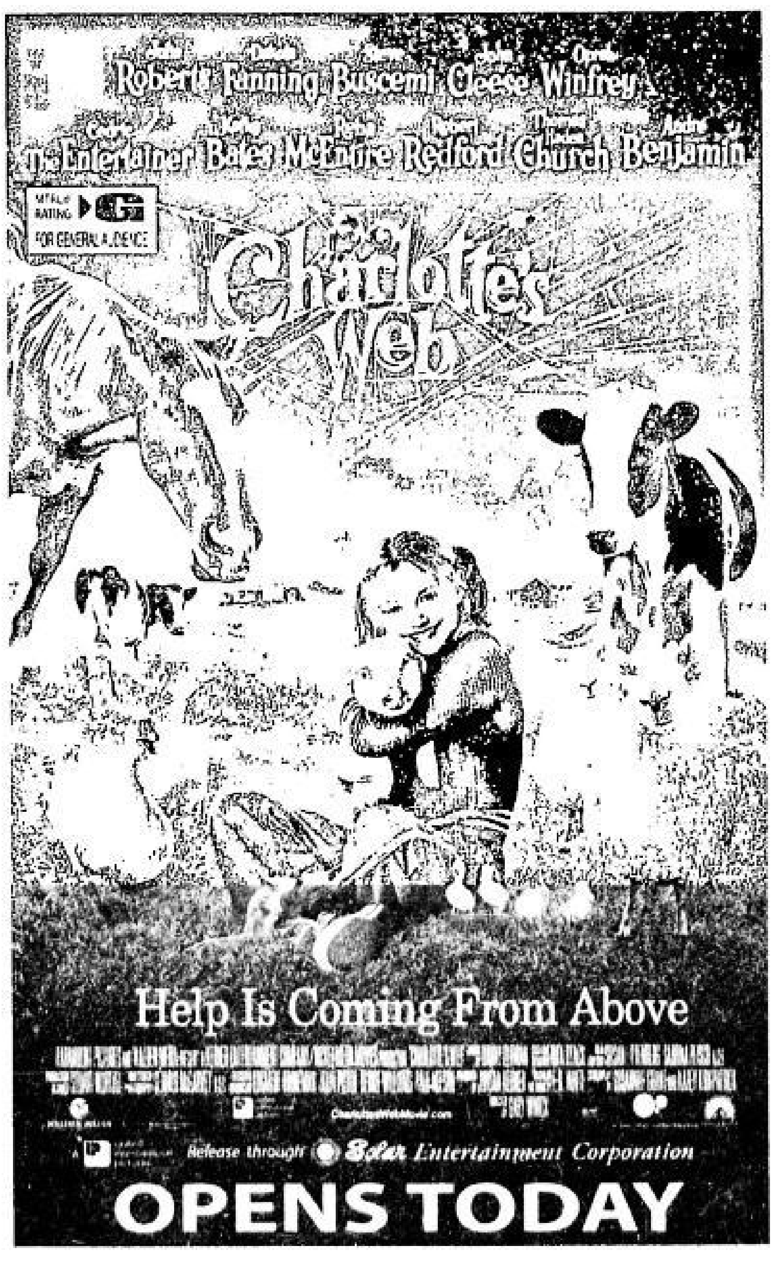
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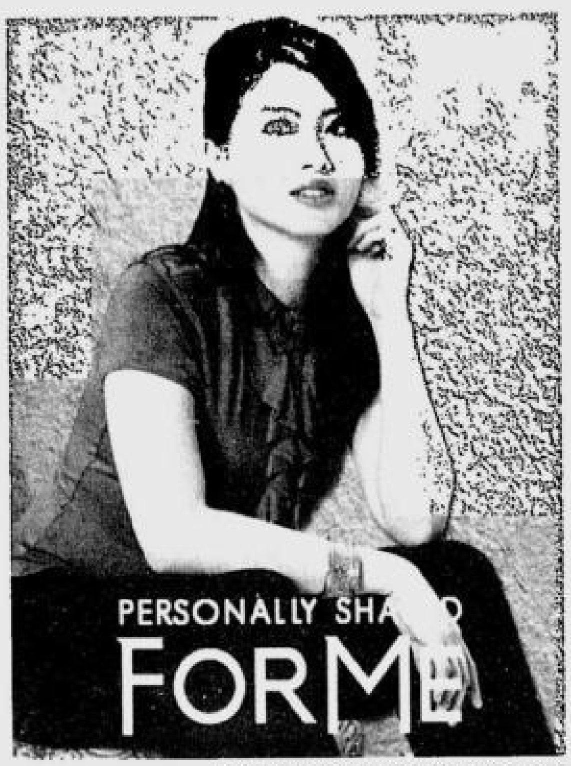
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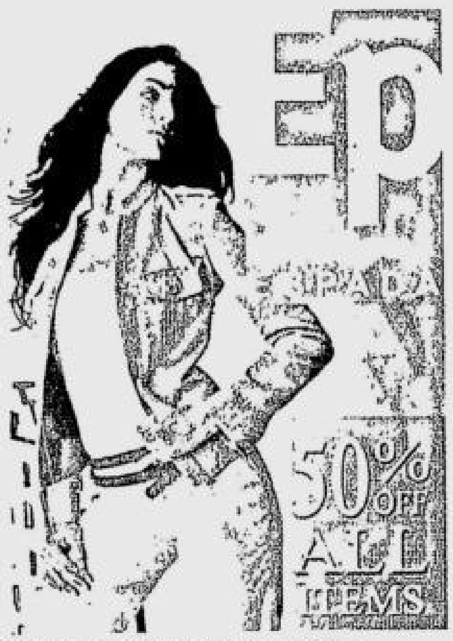
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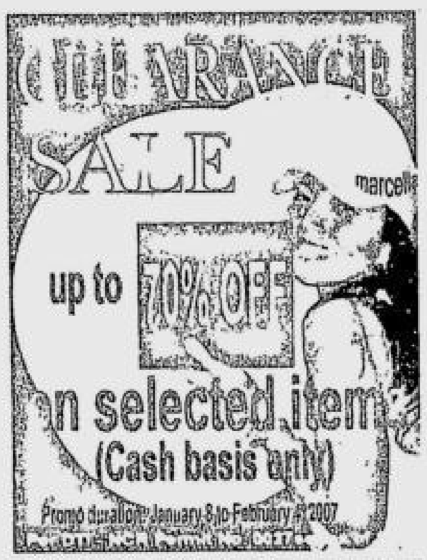
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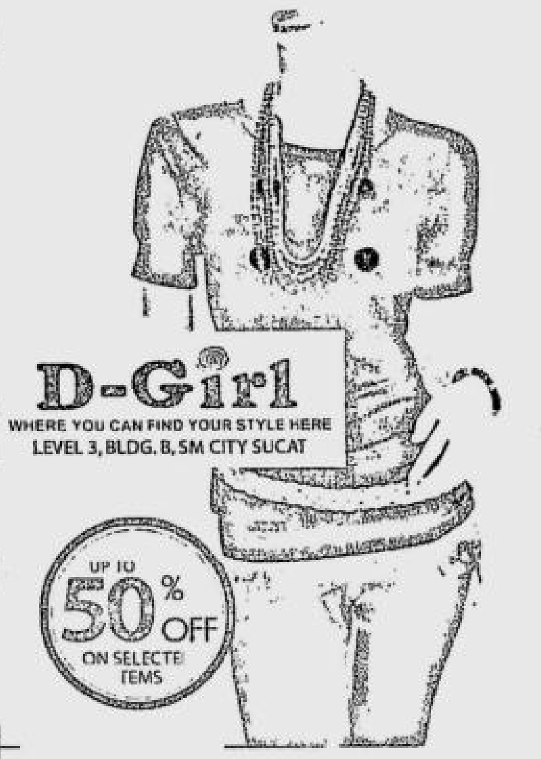
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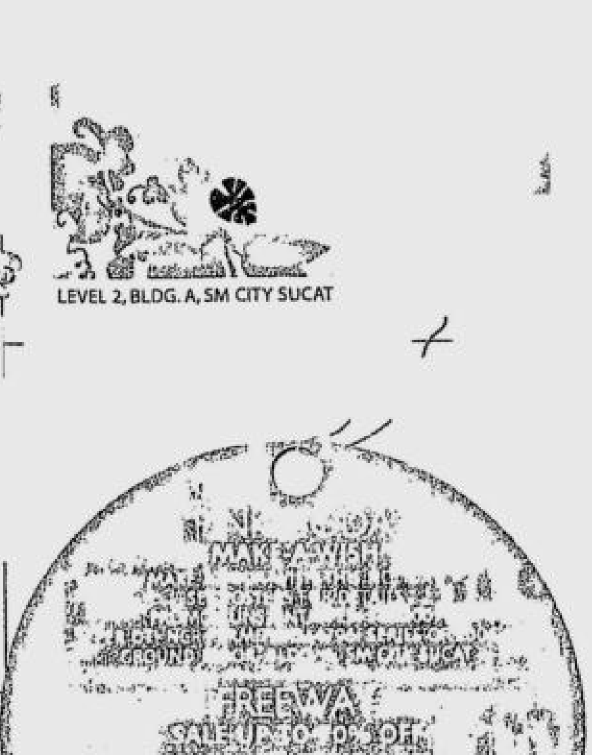
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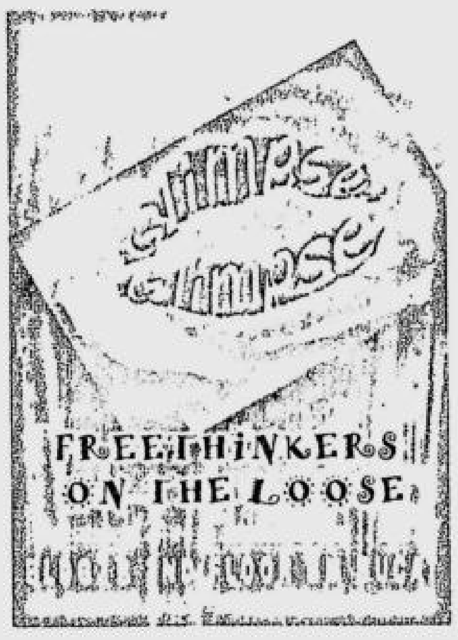
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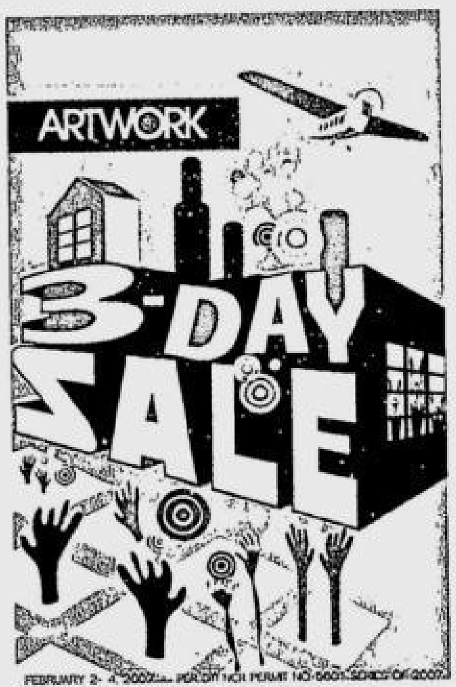
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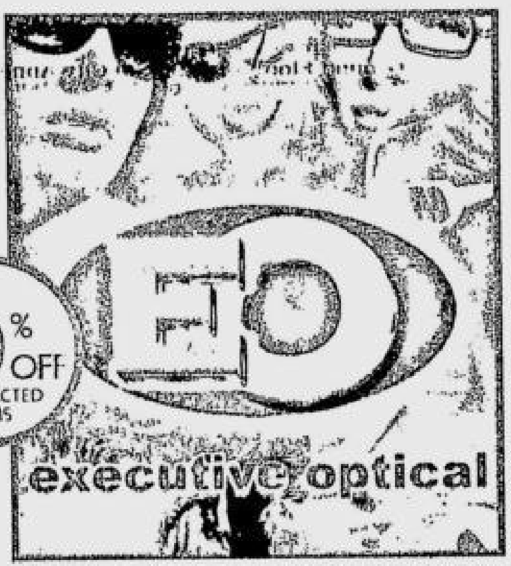
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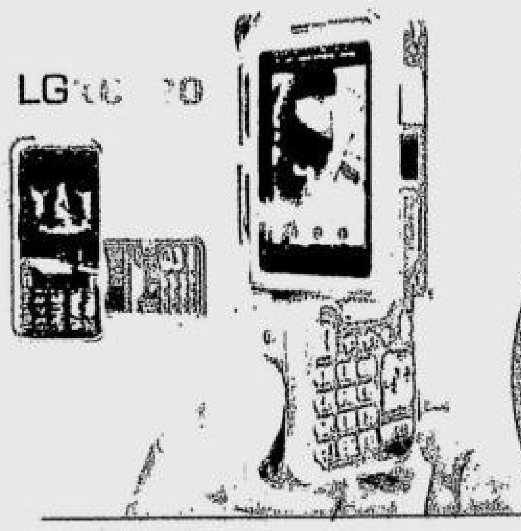

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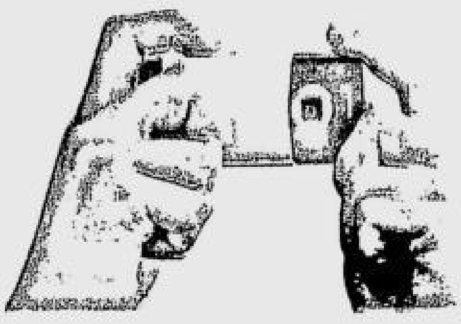

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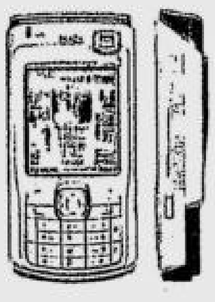

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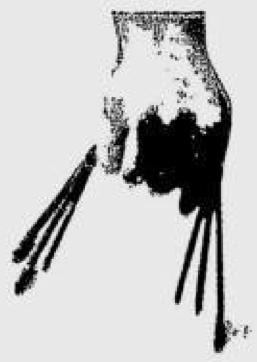

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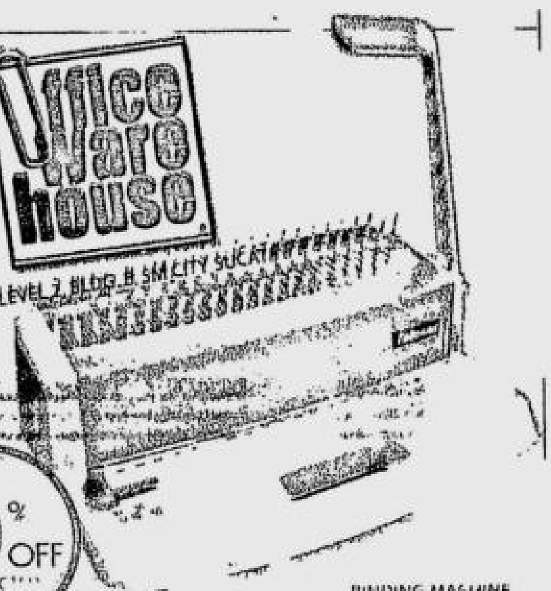

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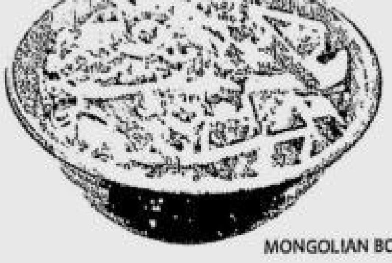

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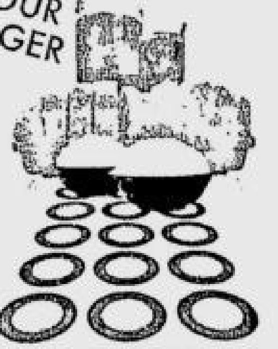

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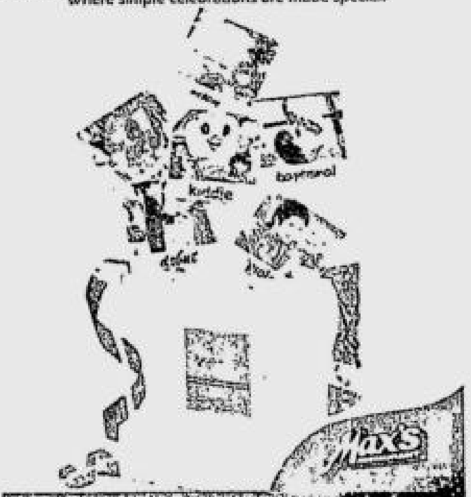

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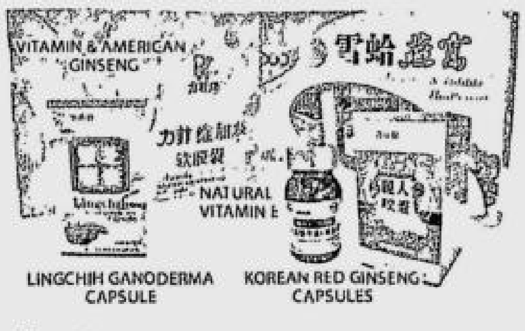

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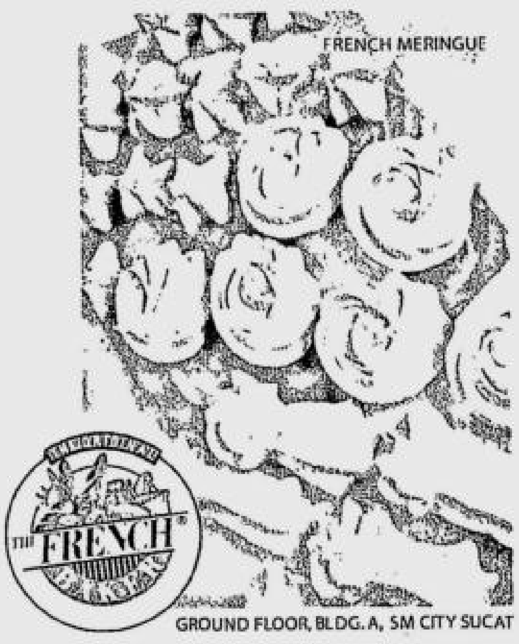

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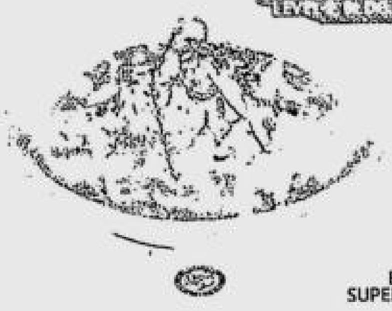

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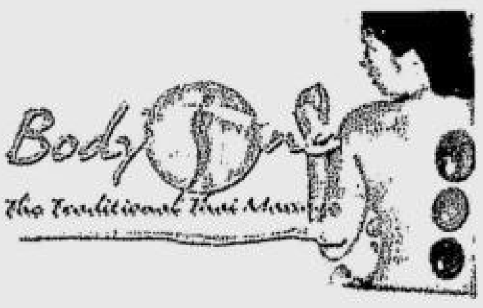

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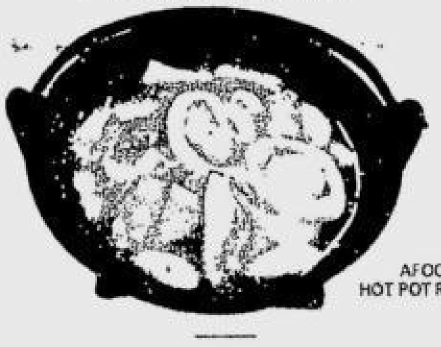

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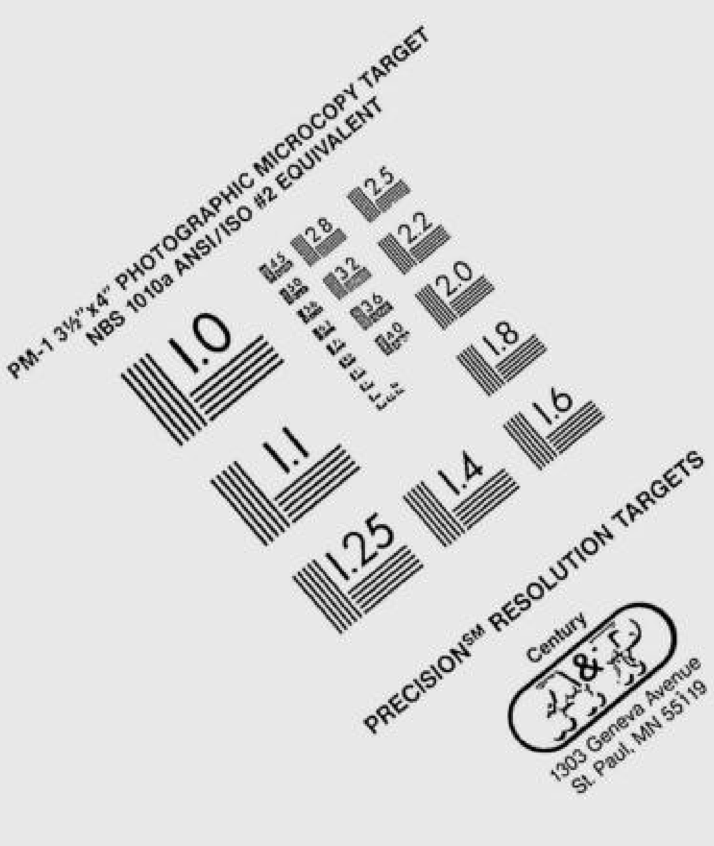
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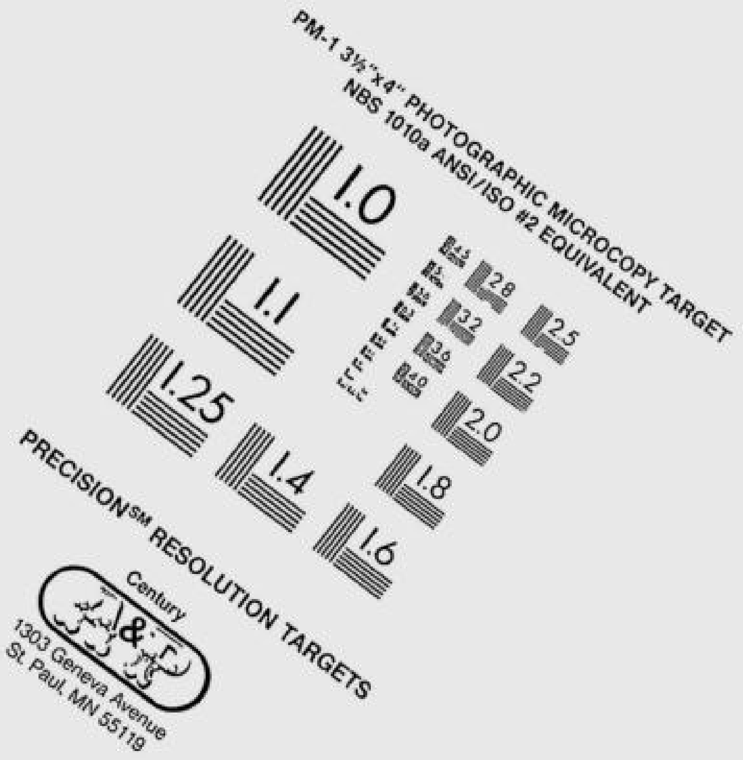
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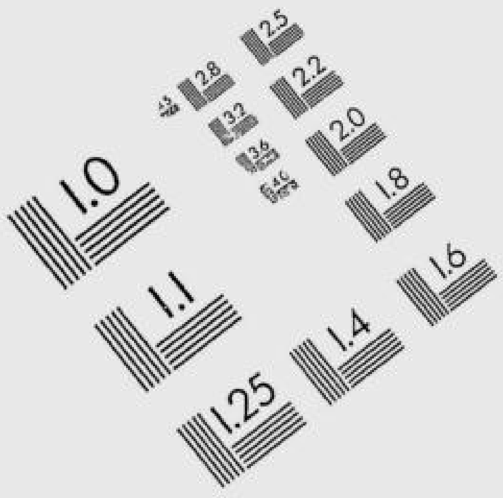
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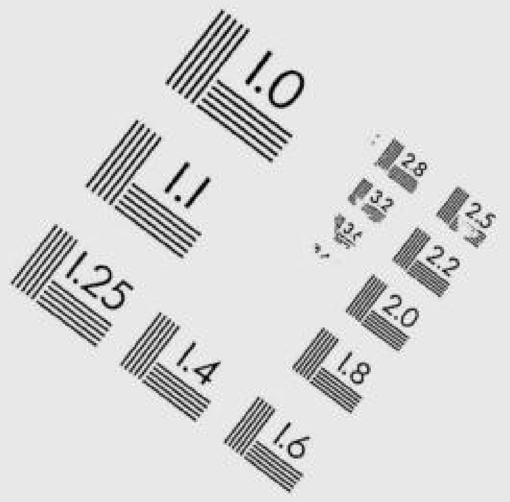
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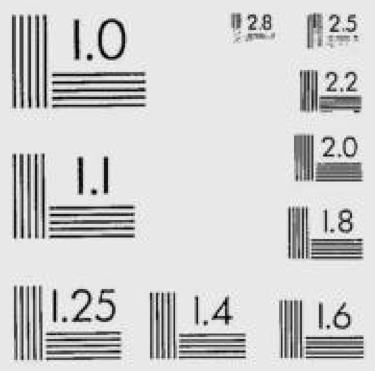
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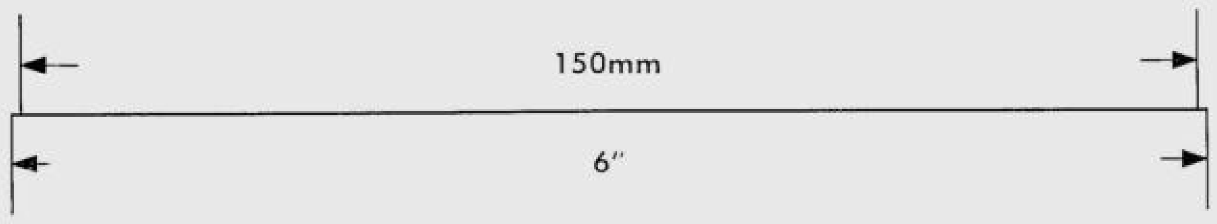

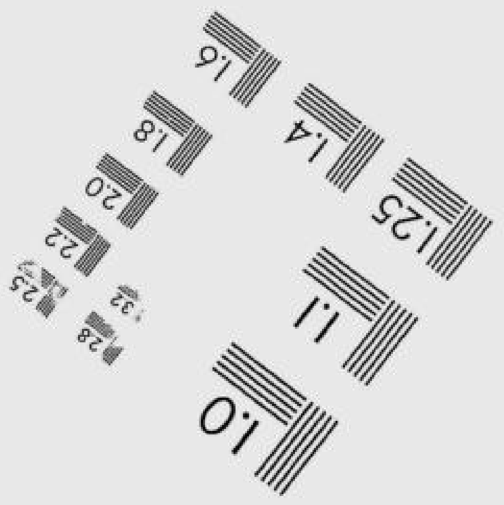
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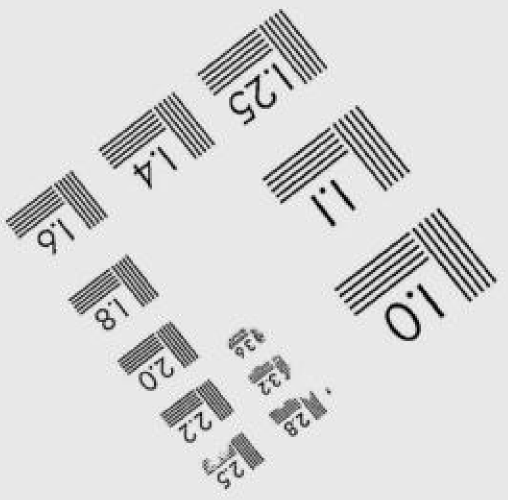
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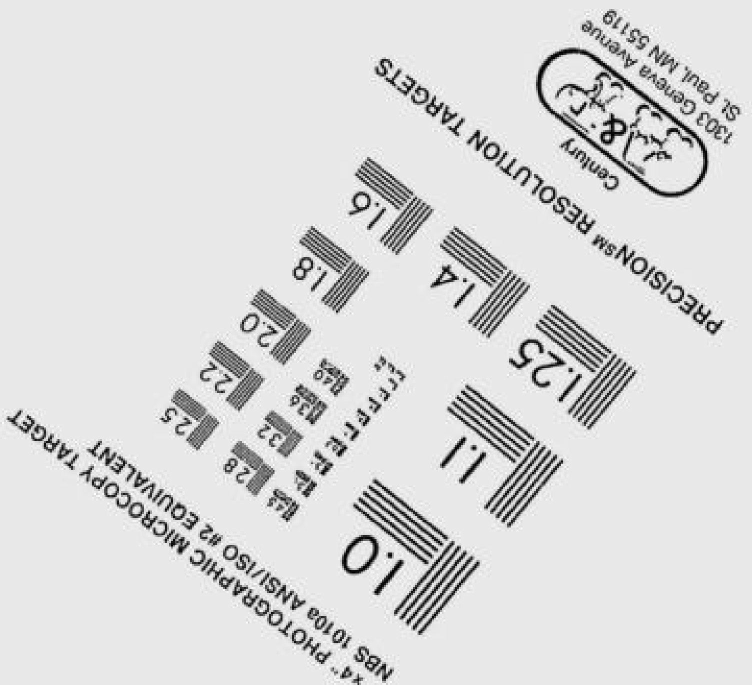
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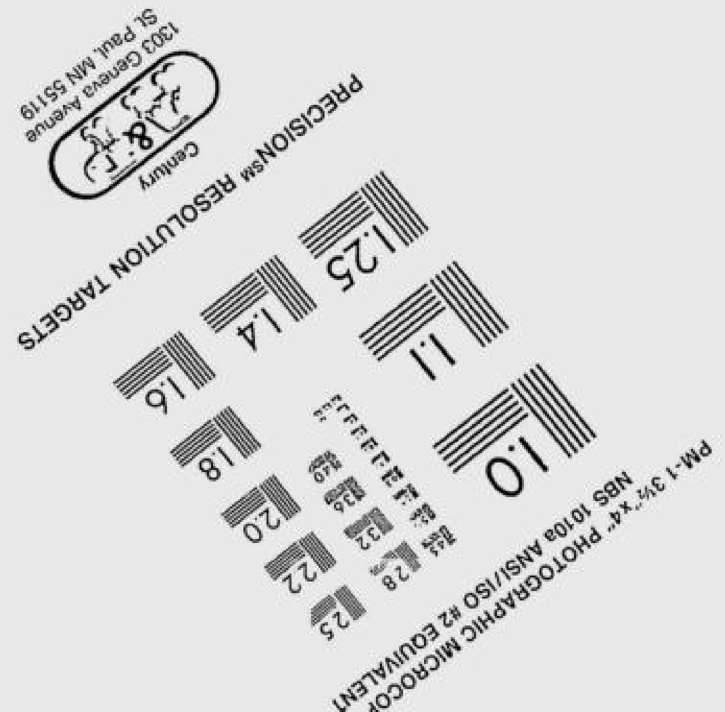
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